

80p

Super
80 page issue

MAGAZINE

28th December, 1985
4th January, 1986

Bonnie Prince Charlie's Christmas capers

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New Zealand — 80c;
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Bryan Robson's United shake-up warning

Ian Rush 'My private agony'

Glenn Hoddle's pop star dream

Graeme Souness World Cup pledge

Man Utd international team group



Ready for a rocket

Christmas shock for



**IAN
RUSH**

I pray that 1986 is a better year for me than the one I am glad to see out... because I'm under pressure!

Only Liverpool's good team form protects me from a rocket from manager Kenny Dalglish.

But if we hit a lean spell, he will point the finger — at me.

My form is poor, my goals have dried up and I'm missing chances. Yes, I'm worried.

I've tried to analyse what's gone wrong but I cannot find an answer. I've played with a few knocks and they can affect your form a little. But not to this extent.

I am a goalscorer who is not scoring goals. And when I do they are singles. The really top finishers hit twos and threes. I can and I have, but not this season.

Paul Walsh, as much a goal-maker as a goal-taker, is doing my job better than me.

I'm not spending enough time in the box. I reckon I'm coming too deep too often. This is something I'm going to change — now.

At least I am getting into scoring positions and missing them. If I was not in on the chances at all then I would be very worried.

The manager has been great. So have the other lads. They all reckon I must be doing something right because we are thundering after Manchester United and have demolished their ten point lead.

Standard

But I am not satisfied with my total of 12 goals at the time of writing.

I want between 25 and 30 goals every season. I have set myself a high standard and people have come to expect it of me.

But I don't want too many more howlers like the couple I committed against Chelsea at Anfield last month.

But the fact that I am aware of my misses ought to represent a warning to the First Division. Goalscorers all go through patches like this ... and they always bounce back.

Paul Walsh blasts his second goal to sink Luton at Anfield.



**Walsh playing
better than me**



Wales failed Mike England

Blunders, greed and stupidity — these are the three words that best sum up the plight of Wales manager Mike England ... and not one of them applies to the man who has done so much for our international progress!

The blunders were made by the players — all of us — who failed to take a point from Iceland at the start of our World Cup campaign and therefore made our own lives so damn difficult.

The greed was displayed by England and Scotland who decided they had the power and the following to kick out Northern Ireland and Wales, kill off the British Championship and keep the financial pickings for themselves.

The stupidity was solely the work of the Welsh F.A. who ignored Mike's plea, and those of the players, to play our crucial World Cup game against Scotland at Wrexham.

We were over-ruled, the game was staged at Cardiff, and although the Welsh fans did us proud, too many Scots were there!

We never lost under Mike England at Wrexham, it has a better pitch and we would have had more Welsh fans and fewer

Scots because they would have found it difficult to find places to stay.

The Welsh F.A. opted for the extra cash from a bigger gate ... and ended up telling Mike that they cannot afford a full-time manager. As I said, stupidity.

Every member of the Welsh squad prays that when his full-time contract expires in June, Mike will be appointed part-time manager. Anything else would be a disgrace.

If another manager comes in and we qualify for the European Championship Finals, it would be Mike England's team under another man. That's how we feel!

Mike is an ex-player. He treats us like men. No time-keeping, no silly dossiers. But step out of the line he expects from top pros and he will blast you to your face.

Criticised

He introduced me to the squad at 18. He was criticised. He brought in Mark Hughes, Neil Slatter, Clayton Blackmore and a host of young lads, all before their time. He knew we would mature quicker at this level through being involved. So he ignored his critics ... and built the best Welsh team for decades.

We failed to make Mexico, not Mike England!

Here is a man we respect — a real boss.

He called a deadly serious team meeting before our game at Hampden Park and said: "We are in a mess because we lost to Ireland!"

The lads started to crease up, each of us trying not to laugh. Mike, of course, meant to say Iceland but he gets so passionate about the job to be done that his words get confused.

But we knew what he meant. And when the laughter stopped, we beat Scotland 1-0 in Glasgow. That type of management is priceless. We must keep this man in charge of Wales!

I can't read



The Shoot and GREAVESIE SHOW

Do you think Boris Becker can maintain his super form in 1986?

No. I fear Becker (below) may have peaked too early. I'm not saying he'll never win Wimbledon again, nor that he won't be the world's best player one day. But I think it will be a few years before he repeats his achievements of 1985.

John McEnroe is still my favourite tennis player. I love watching him, although I'm not too keen on listening to him.

And as for that Ivan Lendl, blimey, he's the Christopher Lee of tennis. He's the best way I know of frightening the grandchildren!

It's been a tremendous year for British golf. Will 1986 be as successful?

How can we stop Sandy Lyle winning the British Open, then our boys taking the Ryder Cup? It's got to be an anti-climax after that.

As for me, I won't be playing any golf this year. I find it very boring walking around 18 holes and only hitting the ball 65 times. It wouldn't be so bad if I saw a few trees or a bit of sand on my way round, but I always go straight down the fairway and on to the green.

1985 was the year in which Jimmy Greaves broadened his sporting horizons and became a genuine all-rounder for his TV show The Saint and Greavesie.

So this Christmas we've given Britain's favourite Spitting Image the chance to air his sporting general knowledge.

Who was your athlete of 1985?

Zola Budd. Moses said come forth and multiply, but she came fourth and walked off with ninety grand!

My real athlete of the year was Steve Cram, who will continue to shine in the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh next year if the left wing loonies don't disrupt the whole thing.

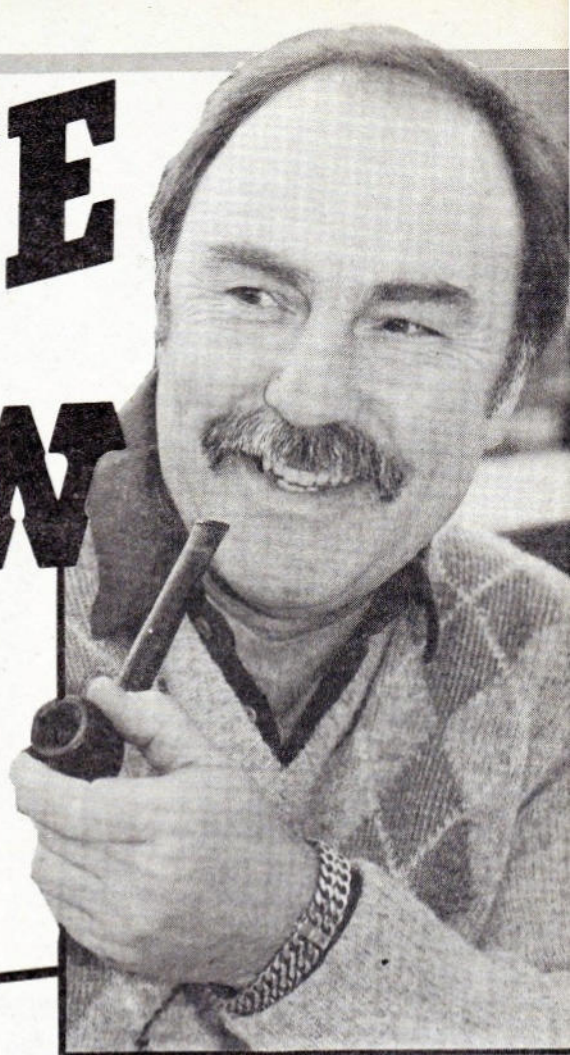
Darts has become a very popular TV sport in recent years. Do you enjoy watching?

Yes. I love Eric Bristow — the Crafty Cockney. But my favourite part of the evening is when the MC turns to the audience of 5,000 drunken slobes belching and vomiting over each other and says: "Best of order please, gentlemen!" I crease up every time.

Who do you think will inherit Lester Piggott's mantle as the greatest jockey in the business?

Steve Cauthen. I think he'll take most of the honours in the new season.

It was a terribly sad day for me when Lester retired. He is my hero. I hope he is just as successful in his career as a trainer. He's certainly got the backing and the horses to do well.



SANDY LYLE



STEVE CAUTHEN



STEVE CRAM

How did you enjoy your recent 'fight' with British heavyweight Champion Hughroy Currie?

It was great fun. Hughroy is a smashing lad, even if nobody has heard of him. I'm sure he'll continue to do well in 1986 as stand-in for the Invisible Man.

The boxer who really impressed me in my work for The Saint and Greavesie was Azumah Nelson — the Mighty Warrior himself.

He really is a tough customer and after knocking out poor old Pat Cowdell in one round he is gunning for Barry McGuigan.

That has got to be the fight of the future, but I reckon we'll have to wait until 1987 for that one. And I'd have to tip Nelson to win it because his defence is a wee bit better than Barry's and he packs a punch like a mule.

Mind you, I have been known to be slightly out with one or two of my predictions.

Ian Botham has a lot of critics. Are you one of them?

No I'm not. I accompanied Ian for a few miles of his John O'Groats to Lands End walk and think he did an absolutely tremendous job. Seeing all those kids with their mums and dads coming out to cheer him on was brilliant and I know Ian is sick that he didn't manage to raise £1 million for leukaemia.

This summer I expect to see Ian breaking the record for the number of catches taken by an outfield player and passing Dennis Lillee's test wicket record.

I'm also looking forward to seeing Graham Gooch in action for Essex, particularly in partnership with local lad made good Allan Border.

Who is your favourite snooker player?

Willie Thorne (right), because he's got so much talent but rarely wins a tournament. We all know he should have beaten Steve Davis in the Final of the Coral UK Championships. Even I could have potted that blue he missed. I'd love to see Willie win another major tournament in the New Year.



Have you been bitten by the American football bug?

Too right I have. I'm a New York Jets fan because they're my local team — the Orient of the AFC.

My tip for the Super Bowl has got to be the Chicago Bears. Their defence is so good, and with the great Walter Peyton in their side there's no one to touch them.

As for that Refrigerator guy, if he was running down at me I'd just say what the hell and let him score a touchdown.

My outside tip to stop the Bears? The San Francisco 49ers.

Are you still backing Manchester United to win the League Championship?

Yes, because they've been through their sticky patch for the season and although Liverpool will be as consistent as ever I think their turn to lose a few games has yet to come. West Ham always go through a poor spell after Christmas and I don't think Chelsea have quite enough to do it. I expect to see Everton coming with a strong late challenge but still feel United (left) can hang on.

Who do you fancy to win the World Cup in Mexico?

It's far too early to say. I'm really looking forward to the Finals and the whole of football in 1986 is going to revolve around Mexico. I'm sure we're going to see some outstanding teams and some outstanding individual talents.

I promise that I will stick my neck out for Shoot Magazine a little closer to the event, but until I know who's going to be flying out to Mexico and who's out injured, it's impossible to name my winners.

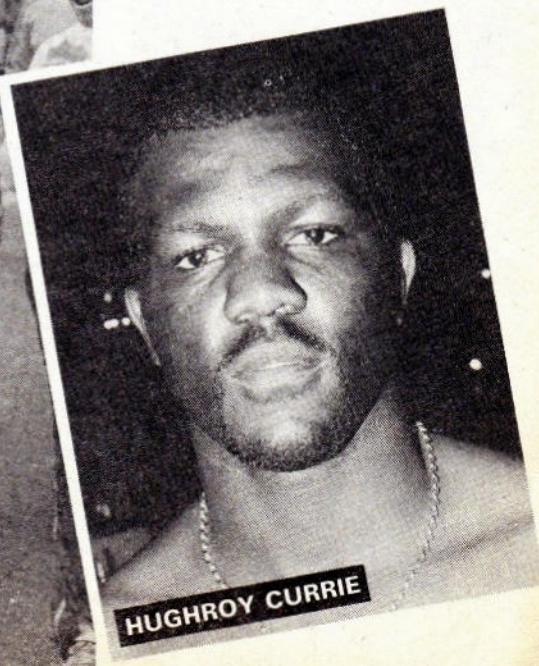
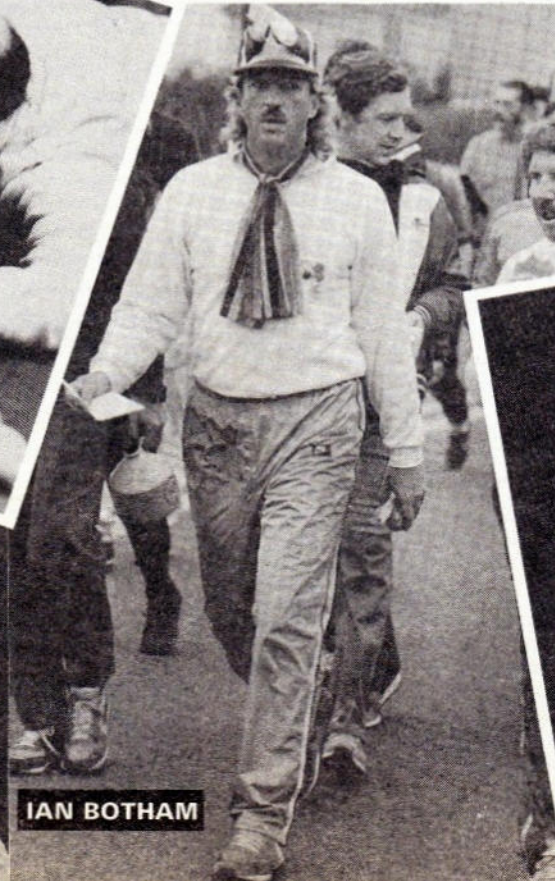
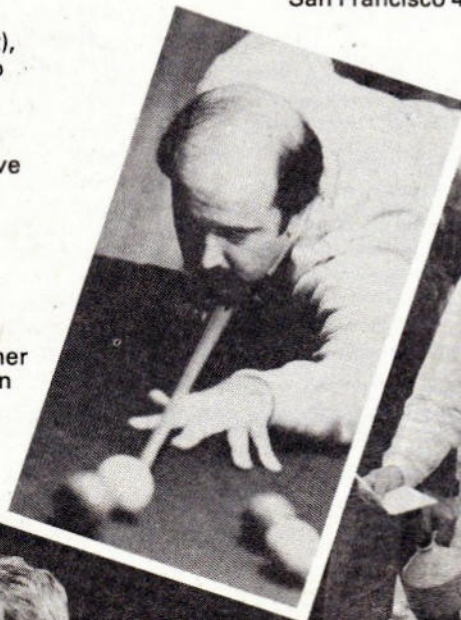
How do you think Northern Ireland will fare in the World Cup Finals?

I was the guy who said they need only take their toothbrushes with them to Spain. This time I'd advise them to pack their combs as well. Except for Noel Brotherston, of course. He can take a duster instead!

Finally, Jim, how will you be spending Christmas Day this year?

I am taking three of my four grandchildren to TVam for a sing song and a party. Instead of driving me mad this year, they can drive everyone at TVam mad. Mind you, most of them are half nuts already, particularly the managing director Bruce Gyngel — sorry about the Ashes, Aussie old mate!

Then it's back home to open the old pressies, followed by a one million calorie Christmas dinner and then it's feet up to watch the James Bond movies on TV. There's bound to be at least half a dozen on — it's the same every year!



ERIC BRISTOW

IAN BOTHAM

HUGHROY CURRIE

The Editor, Shoot Magazine, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.



EDITOR

Peter Stewart

and the entire staff of SHOOT would like to wish all readers, players, managers and everyone connected with the game a very Happy Christmas and successful 1986!

ED'S TEASER

CAN you identify this flying Scot who is more renowned for being top of the hit parade than scoring goals? There are £5 postal orders for the first five correct entries opened after the closing date of Friday, 3rd January, 1986.

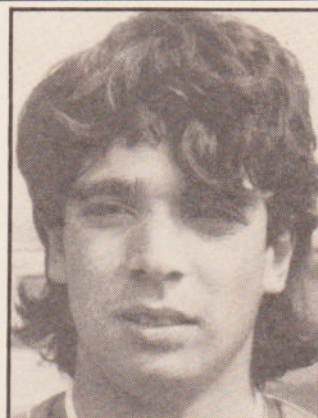


The Editor

RIMMER OUT

DUE to the unfortunate injury to Chester's Stuart Rimmer we were unable to publish the feature scheduled for our 21st December issue.

All on Shoot wish Stuart a very speedy recovery from his knee ligament trouble.



Carlisle Kindness

WELL DONE, Carlisle players. Club sponsors McEwan-Younger award £50 to the club's player-of-the-month. And every winner has donated half his award to charity... like the Children's Ward of the Cumberland Infirmary and Cancer Research.

Money madness

IN all the discussions, secret or otherwise, regarding the restructuring of the League, or breakaway Super League, I've yet to hear any mention that the change will improve the standard of our football.

It's all about money, with the rich getting richer and the others left to take care of themselves.

PEN PALS

Becky Roberts, 4 Woodley Fold, Penketh, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 2JB, would like to hear from Everton fans, preferably aged between 13 and 16 years old.

Answer to Ed's Teaser 7th December issue was Billy Hamilton. Fivers on the way to Darren Betts, South Ockenden; Gavin Ahern, Cork; Nicholas Harbison, Glasgow; Chris Logan, Belfast; D. Bidle, Plymouth.

Shoot view Golden boat-boy

Hung Dang is Britain's best young footballer.

The 13-year-old schoolboy from Taunton, Somerset triumphed in a Bobby Charlton soccer skills contest.

Hung's success is remarkable, for six years ago he was homeless.

Hung and his family escaped War-ravaged Vietnam with the Boat People.

They survived attack from pirates in their dangerous voyage to freedom across the South China Sea, and eventually settled in Britain.

Thankfully, Hung's turbulent early life is long since forgotten.

His exceptional football skills have made it easy for him to settle.

Now, Bobby Charlton has taken a special interest in Hung.

The young soccer student could have no better coach than the former England and Manchester United hero.

Ambition

If Hung is to achieve his ambition to play for Spurs, Bobby's guidance will be invaluable as he tries to bridge the gap between schools and League football.

But Hung should beware. His title will draw an army of admirers.

He will receive more advice from so-called do-gooders than he has ever heard.

The coaches will get at him, try to restrict his outrageous skills, and programme his gifted talents into what they call "team pattern".

If Hung listens carefully to Bobby Charlton he stands a good chance of fulfilling his dreams.

If he takes too much advice he could suffer the disappointments that have afflicted many "golden boys".

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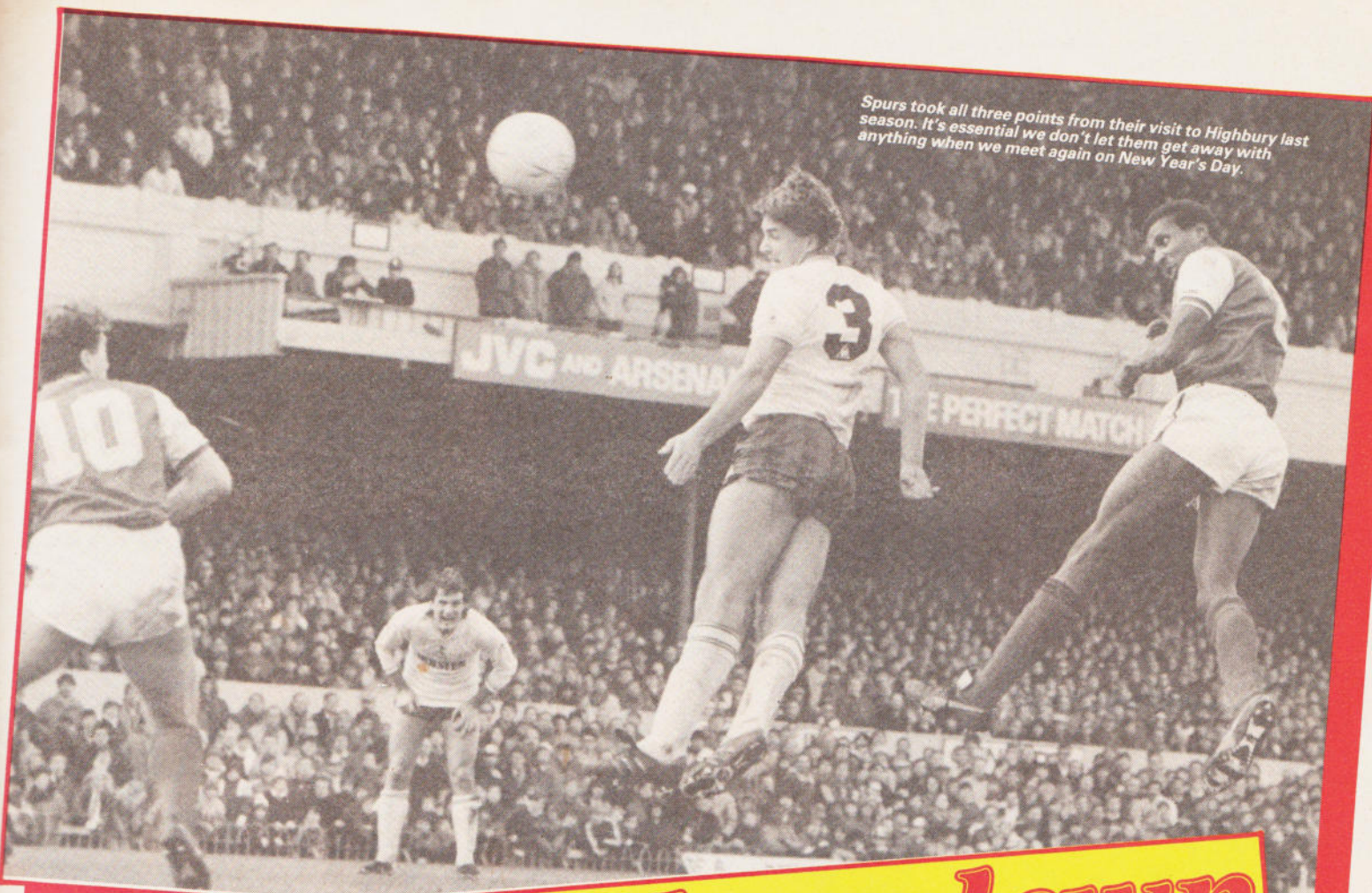
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Spurs took all three points from their visit to Highbury last season. It's essential we don't let them get away with anything when we meet again on New Year's Day.



Capital Showdown

I know this is supposed to be the season of goodwill to all men, but I'm afraid I'd like to strangle whoever programmed the Football League's computer to hand Arsenal such a strenuous Christmas schedule!

After taking on a Liverpool side bang in form last Saturday, the last thing we need to follow it up with is a trip to Old Trafford.

I've played against Manchester United five times since joining Arsenal and have finished on the losing side every time.

They are the club who have impressed me more than any other during my two and a half years in England. It's just our luck to be meeting them when they're getting their act together again.

I wasn't at all surprised to see United making such a brilliant start to the season. But even allowing for their recent injury problems, I didn't expect their ten point lead to disappear quite so quickly.

And there's no let up after this Saturday, either. Watford, QPR and Spurs, all in the space of six days, are guaranteed to keep us on our toes right into 1986.

It's absolutely essential that we finish on top in this mini-London showdown if we're to have any chance of hauling ourselves back into Championship contention.

CHARLIE NICHOLAS

I didn't get much joy out of the Manchester United defence at Highbury in September. I'm hoping for better luck this Saturday.

Because while other sides have taken advantage of United's recent slump, we're still well adrift of the First Division leaders.

Quite simply, we've been far too inconsistent all season, particularly away from home. And we're not scoring anywhere near enough goals.

Unless we can put together a run of six or seven successive victories immediately, we can kiss the title goodbye.

Which all means we won't be doing much celebrating this Christmas. Even my 24th birthday, on December 30, will have to go unmarked.

Most of our relaxing was done at the beginning of the month, when we jetted off for four days in Trinidad.

The idea of the trip was to get away from it all, lap up the



sunshine and go swimming in the Caribbean.

Unfortunately, things didn't quite work out that way. The temperature might have been in the 80s, but we arrived in the West Indies at the same time as a four-day monsoon!

Even our match against the Trinidad and Tobago national side was cancelled three times before

we eventually beat them 3-0 on a pitch quite literally under six inches of water.

But that doesn't mean the trip was a flop. Far from it. Anyone who has been on a football tour knows what a great laugh they are.

Arsenal haven't been playing as a unit for some time and this was the perfect opportunity to boost team spirit.

I'm not surprised that clubs like Liverpool and Nottingham Forest go on so many of these mid-winter breaks. They are brilliant for morale.

Christmas

By the way, I hope you like the special Christmas picture on the cover. There's more on the next page.

I even had my picture taken with Humpty Dumpty in Santa's grotto, which was quite a laugh. Shoot's photographer wanted me to stand in the middle of Oxford Street wearing that crown, but I think that was going a bit too far!

Anyway, whatever you're up to this Christmas, make sure you have a good time.

Be lucky...

Charlie Nicholas

Charlie Nicholas caught the Christmas fever when he swept into Selfridges famous London store.

He dived into the Grotto tunnel, told Father Christmas all about Scotland's World Cup plans, and finished-up burying himself in a mountain of fluffy bears and other seasonal gifts.

Bonnie Prince Charlie talked football with mums, dads and children — and when they asked the Arsenal striker whether he would be going to Mexico next summer, said: "It's my Christmas wish — and I hope it comes true."

He may not be Saint Nicholas, but he's the next best thing!

Christmas cracker Charlie

...AND
GUESS
WHO?





Move over Father Christmas, there is an imposter about!

Who is this mystery man dressed in the famous scarlet robe of the most popular star in the world at this holiday time?

We're testing the talent-spotting capabilities of readers by inviting them to identify our special guest.

Some of you will have spotted him already. If you haven't, here are some clues: He plays for England. He belongs to a Northern club. He's 25. He has not yet won ten caps. He top scored for a First Division club for four seasons. Who is he? Turn to page 77 to find out.

BEST KEPT SECRET

Shabby Kenny Hibbitt
(Coventry City)

"I wear the same suit until we lose a game.
Then I change."



Ball hog
Peter Beardsley
(Newcastle United)

"It is important to me that
I always carry a ball
when running on to the
pitch."



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40/4	£16.95	£14.95

SHORTS	Normal Price	Our Price
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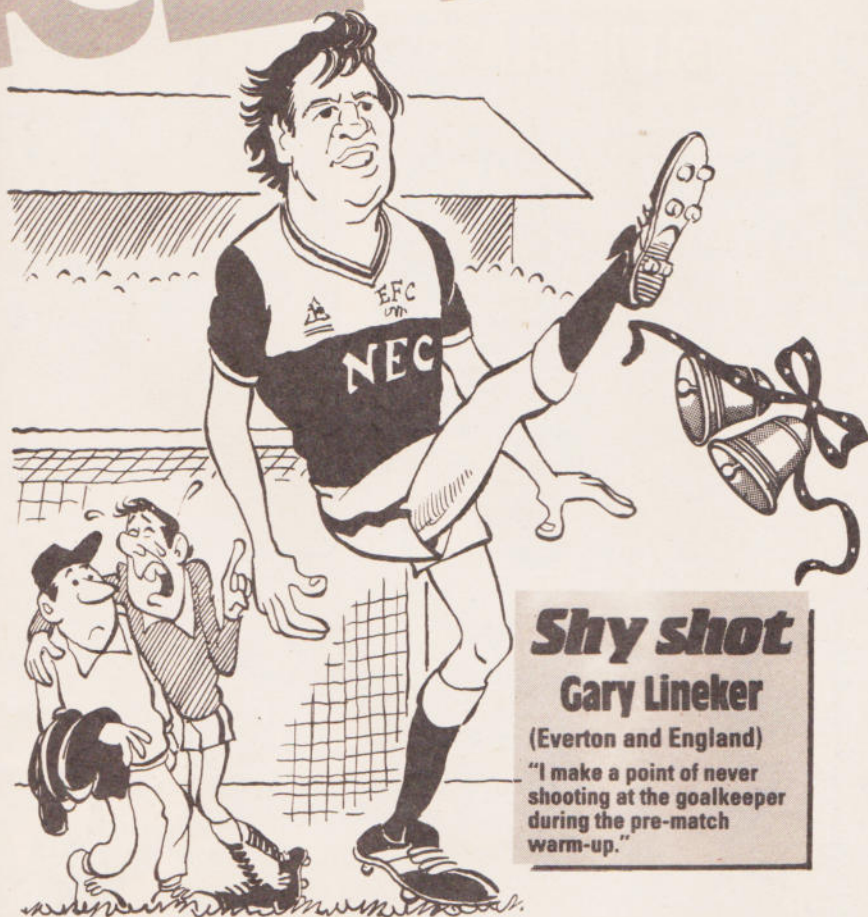
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PRETS

SUPERSTITION plays a big part in the lives of many footballers.

Some of our most famous stars need the comfort of personal habits, little odd-ball rituals, to face the pressures of match-day.

We talked to six of the best and discovered some of their best-kept secrets.



Shy shot

Gary Lineker

(Everton and England)

"I make a point of never shooting at the goalkeeper during the pre-match warm-up."



Splinters

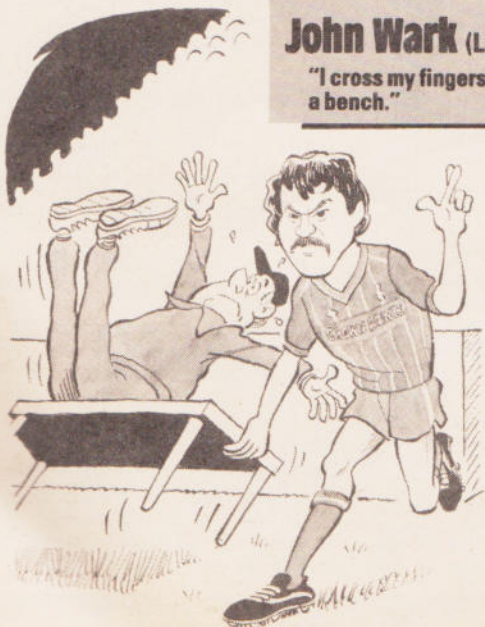
John Gidman (Manchester United)

"I make a point of touching wood before going out."

Magical fingers

John Wark (Liverpool & Scotland)

"I cross my fingers first, then touch a bench."



Chicken

Willie Miller

(Aberdeen and Scotland)

"Don't talk about superstitions! I'm superstitious about talking about superstitions."



Beat the Clock

Compiled by JOHN HAMON

QUICKIES

5 mins

1. Paul Cooper (seen here stopping an Arsenal attack) joined Ipswich Town from Birmingham City in March, 1972, 1973 or 1974?

2. George Reilly was recently transferred from Newcastle United to which club for £150,000?

3. Who did Billy Bremner replace as manager of Leeds United in October?

4. Who were the last British club to win the European Cup-Winners' Cup?

5. Who are the new sponsors of the Milk Cup?

SHELTON BLAST

Sheffield Wednesday's Gary Shelton blasts for goal against Manchester United this season. (A) Apart from a loan spell with Notts County, Shelton has played for two other League clubs... name them. (B) Shelton is an Under-21 international for which country? (C) What was so significant about Wednesday's 1-0 win against United at Hillsborough?

5 mins



SOCCER SEARCH

10 mins

The answers to the clues can be found spelt out down or across. Draw a line around each and when you have done this there will be 12 letters not used. These letters will spell the name of a Liverpool midfielder player.

R	N	W	A	L	L	A	C	E	T
M	I	L	L	E	R	R	A	O	A
M	C	B	R	O	R	M	S	B	Y
C	H	A	O	N	S	S	E	L	L
N	O	K	V	N	W	T	I	A	O
A	L	E	E	E	A	R	O	C	R
B	A	R	R	O	N	O	E	K	D
W	S	H	S	E	S	N	W	L	E
P	R	E	E	C	E	G	I	L	N
A	G	I	D	M	A	N	N	E	S

- (1) John —, Man. Utd. defender. (6)
- (2) — Park; home of Dundee. (4)
- (3) Paul —, Spurs defender. (6)
- (4) Steve —, Southampton defender. (5)
- (5) From the Victoria Ground. (5)
- (6) Frank —, West Ham striker. (9)
- (7) Paul —, QPR keeper. (6)
- (8) Sheffield Wednesday's nickname. (4)
- (9) David —, Southampton midfielder player. (9)

- (10) Raith —. (6)
- (11) Charlie —, Arsenal striker. (8)
- (12) Jimmy —, another Southampton midfielder. (4)
- (13) Eric —, Aberdeen striker. (5)
- (14) David —, Luton midfielder. (6)
- (15) Neil —, Man. City star. (5)
- (16) Les —, Watford midfielder. (6)
- (17) They play at the Vetch Field. (7)
- (18) Brendan —, Villa defender. (6)
- (19) Danny —, Southampton striker. (7)





GOAL MACHINE

West Ham's prolific scorer Frank McAvennie is about to be congratulated by team-mate Mark Ward after scoring against Aston Villa. The pair of them joined The Hammers from which clubs during the summer?

2 mins

Signed Up

Study the autograph and clue to identify the international defender.

2 mins

He began his career with Crystal Palace and made his full international debut against Wales in a 0-0 draw in May, 1979.



My face is hidden by the ball as I challenge Nottingham Forest's Neil Webb. I began my League career with Aston Villa and after a spell in America with New York Cosmos, I returned to England to play for Coventry City. After 185 League games I moved across the Midlands. I'm a full England international ... who am I?

2 mins

ROLL OF HONOUR



BOOKS BONANZA

Three of the best supported clubs in the land have produced books this season. Tottenham, Celtic and Rangers have recently published the history of their clubs. Now is the chance to win one of them. I'm giving one free to the first 18 correct entries opened after Friday, January 10th, 1986.

1. Which club — Rangers or Celtic — have won the Premier Division the most times?
2. Only one club, since Spurs in 1960-61, has won the League and F.A. Cup double ... name them.

Send your answers to John Hamon, Shoot Magazine, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

TURNER'S TARGET

-Success for Coventry

Wayne Turner has the job he wanted, the responsibilities he enjoys and the challenges that motivate him!

"Now, please, let me have a slice of luck. Then my move to Coventry will be the best thing that has happened to me in football," he says.

Coventry are the back markers of the First Division. This is their 19th consecutive season there — only Everton, Liverpool and Arsenal can beat that record —

but they have won nothing. Turner is the new signed skipper to bring success to Highfield Road.

"And I am convinced that it will happen. Because the players are good enough, the attitude is perfect, because, in every corner, there are people determined to push Coventry into the front rank," he says.

"I would not have joined the club if any of those pieces had been missing.

In fact, all that was missing at Coventry in the early weeks of the season was Turner himself. Two injuries, first to his knee and then to his ankle, made this the most frustrating start that the driving midfielder has experienced since he started in football.

"And just when everything was going my way like never before," he complains in frustration. "What makes it worse is that it was a late tackle each time, first a pre-season friendly against Crystal Palace and then against Arsenal.

"The first injury cost me five weeks. I got back, played my first game as skipper and we won 5-2 against Oxford... everything felt fantastic. The next game against Arsenal — I lasted 35 minutes before I was the victim of another bad tackle when I had already played the ball!

"My last serious injuries were as a 16-year-old. I've had eight years since then, hardly missing a first team game for Luton for fitness reasons. Then it's two bad blows in six weeks."

Sky blues boss Don Mackay is convinced that Turner is the leader to lift Coventry after two seasons of desperate relegation battles. He made him club skipper as well as taking charge on the pitch and Turner says: "It was brilliant.

"I suddenly became part and parcel of running a top club. A representative on behalf of

Coventry who meet important people when they come to the club, concerned with administrative matters and ticket distribution

and responsibility for the players' bar. But the most vital role is on the pitch.

"There, too, everything is coming together. Steve Ogrizovic is now one of the best goalkeepers in the game; the back four looks confident and up front, Cyrille Regis has sorted out his game after taking stick last season for not scoring enough.

"In central midfield, I felt terrific after that debut win over Oxford... but it all came crashing down for me against Arsenal when Paul Davis, who apologised afterwards, caught me late after the ball had gone.

Now Turner is set for try number three at the best job he's had in football. How badly Coventry needed his inspiration, leadership and determination!



Turner winces with pain after being injured against Arsenal.



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WORLD WIDE

Compiled by TONY ROCHE



Switzerland have appointed a new manager to succeed the departing Paul Wolfisberg — Daniel Jeandupeux. A former captain of Toulouse and Zurich, he took over a few days after the Swiss had completed their unsuccessful World Cup qualifying campaign with a 1-1 draw with Norway.

Eder for Spurs?

Eder, Brazil's thunderbolt free-kick expert, will sign for Spurs after the World Cup Finals.

That is the news from Rio, where the £1.2 million striker insists he is going to follow the successful path of Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa.

But Spurs, ignoring the daily headline reports in Brazilian papers, deny all knowledge of the deal to bring the exciting South American to White Hart Lane.

Liverpool are suffering the same problem — denying loudly reports that they are ready to fork out £750,000 for World Cup winger Renato from Nacional do Porto Alegre.



Champs and chumps?

Sporting Gijon could become the first team in European football history to win their League Championship and be relegated!

The Spanish title challengers are being sued for back wages by three former players, Castro, Maceda and Ferrero, who claim debts totalling £130,000.

Under Spanish rules, any club owing wages at the end of the season is automatically relegated.

HOW THEY STAND IN EUROPE



Juventus continue to lead the Italian First Division as they approach the halfway mark in the season.

But it's **Naples**, inspired by Diego Maradona, who move into second place, ahead of the Milan duo of **AC** and **Inter**.

Werder Bremen (pictured above) stay top in West Germany, but **Bayern Munich** are putting on the pressure, closely followed by **Borussia Moenchengladbach**.

Paris St. Germain are clear leaders in France after a superb start. **Nantes** are second, **Bordeaux** third.

PSV Eindhoven have opened up a four point lead in Holland on **Feyenoord**, second, and **Ajax**, third.

But it is tight in Portugal, where **Porto**, **Benfica** and **Sporting Lisbon** keep swapping the top three positions, separated by either one point or goal difference.

Real Madrid are enjoying an old-fashioned battle to keep reigning Champions **Barcelona** at bay in Spain, with financially threatened **Gijon** just behind them in third place.

And it's **Bruges** ahead in Belgium, followed by **Anderlecht** and **Ghent**.

Cubilla disgraced

LUIS CUBILLA, Uruguay's most famous manager, has been jailed for attacking a referee.

The former international (left) has also been banned from the bench for 17 months.

Cubilla and his players

attacked the referee, Otello Roberto, after the controversial game against old rivals Wanderers.

The Nacional manager was furious about a penalty awarded to the visitors, waded into the fray and ended up punching the referee in the face.

Hooray Houllier

Salute Gerard Houllier! Who? I hear you mumble. Houllier is manager of unbeaten French leaders Paris St. Germain who are setting records and blazing a trail of entertainment across the country.

Yet this time last year St. Germain were torn apart by internal rows, financial problems and relegation worries!

DUTCH TREAT

Holland's despair over failing to qualify for the World Cup Finals is turning to delight as their dramatic away-goals defeat by rivals Belgium looks like sparking a financial windfall.

The Dutch have received offers of friendly games from Canada, Kuwait, East and West Germany and Argentina, and the money these games could generate would be in excess of anything Holland could make in Mexico — unless they reached the last eight.



Soccer scoop

of the year

FULL NAME: Brian Howard Clough.
BIRTHPLACE AND DATE: Middlesbrough . . . a long time ago.
HEIGHT AND WEIGHT: 5ft 11ins. (not many people believe that); weight — I'm not saying, but it should be coming down.
MARRIED: Just . . . to Barbara. She keeps telling me she can't put up with me any more.
CHILDREN: Three — Simon, Nigel and Elizabeth.
HOME: Four bedroom detached in Derbyshire, where it catches the snow before everyone else.
CAR: Company car — big Mercedes; private car — small Mercedes.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: As a player Middlesbrough and Sunderland. As a manager Hartlepool, Derby, Brighton, Leeds (for a few days) and Forest.
NICKNAME AND REASON FOR IT: Big Head — Stan Bowles christened me that but I'm sure he wasn't the first to think about it. I also get Big Mouth, Cloughie and occasionally one of the players calls me Boss.



Brian in action for England.



Son Nigel, the Forest centre-forward.

TEAM YOU SUPPORTED AS A BOY: Middlesbrough.

FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Will Mannion and George Hardwick.

JOB OR TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: Messenger boy at ICI and then 18 months in Time and Motion (I think they call it Work Study now).

FAVOURITE CURRENT PLAYER: The one who can produce the form worth more than his basic salary.

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: As a player, scoring five goals against Brighton and for the Football League against the Irish League. As a manager, Bolton v Wolves in 1977 when I was 32,000 feet up on my way to Majorca. The result meant Forest had won promotion.

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: You get them every week but losing to QPR in the Milk Cup was the biggest one of late.

SUPERSTITIONS: Never walk under a ladder with a footballer holding your arm.

CLUGFIE



MESSAGE TO SHOOT READERS

What a tremendous prospect to look forward to in 1986 ... England, Scotland and Northern Ireland enjoying success in the World Cup Finals.

Brian Clough

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Not nearly enough — I was a better player than my three England caps indicated.
CLUB HONOURS: I've had a few at Derby and Forest but you'll need a long memory.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: My first love is cricket but I enjoy tennis and squash, which I took up when I was 40 and got a lot of pleasure from until I shot it.

Geoffrey Boycott hits out against Essex.



Morecambe & Wise with another famous footballer — Elton John.

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS PERSON AND WHY: Geoffrey Boycott ... his dedication, application and talent are a lesson to any sportsman.

HOBBIES: Counting my trees and managing my son Simon's team F.C. Hunters (the way things are going it will be the only team I am managing).

FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Morecambe and Wise are legends and I've still got their tapes. I enjoy a good laugh and Bilko and Leonard Rossiter are other favourites.

FAVOURITE MUSICIAN: Frank Sinatra.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER AND WHY: I've had about ten different careers and none of them would have been possible without my family.

AMBITIONS FOR 1986: Stop speaking to journalists and to try and win the next match for a change.

LONG-TERM AMBITIONS: I would very much like to win something with Forest again.

PLAYERS WHO GOT AWAY SAINT BETT



T

he persuasive tongue of Lawrie McMenemy helped lure some of soccer's most famous faces to Southampton. Kevin Keegan, Alan Ball and Peter Shilton were just some of the stars who went to The Dell during McMenemy's time there.

But one man who resisted Lawrie's golden charm was Aberdeen's Scottish midfield man Jim Bett.

McMenemy, who is now in charge at Sunderland, recalls: "Bett was playing for Belgian club SK Lokeren and I saw him as the replacement for Steve Williams when we sold him to Arsenal last December.

"Bett can play the ball well with both feet and is a strong tackler. I'm convinced he would have done a tremendous job for Southampton.

"He was interested in going to The Dell when I spoke to him, but decided instead to join Aberdeen.

There was nothing I could do to change his mind. I think he liked the idea of playing for Aberdeen in the European Cup."

The tough tackling Bett is in good company. He is just one of a host of stars who have slipped through a manager's grasp when on the brink of signing.

Regret

Instead, they've gone on to a different club to earn fame and fortune. And the managers have been left to regret the ones who got away.

Managers like Howard Kendall,





ABOVE: England skipper Bryan Robson will be hoping to lead Manchester United to victory at Everton on Boxing Day. But he could have been playing for Howard Kendall's team. **FAR LEFT:** Mark Hateley is now a superstar in Italy, but Terry Venables could have had him for £200,000. **LEFT:** While Sheffield Wednesday hesitated, Chelsea nipped in to sign Kerry Dixon.



who knows his all-conquering Everton side would have been stronger still with England skipper Bryan Robson rampaging in their midfield.

Kendall tried to sign Robson while he was still at West Brom. Kendall recalls: "I'd always admired Bryan and the first thing I did when I went to Everton was to try to buy him.

"Ron Atkinson was Albion's manager at the time. And I think he had other things planned for Bryan. A month later, Ron became manager of Manchester United. I don't think it surprised many — least of all me — when Robson

followed him to Old Trafford."

Atkinson, though, has not had things all his own way in the transfer market.

When Charlie Nicholas left Celtic, United were among the big English clubs clamouring for his signature. Arsenal eventually won the race, with Nicholas claiming: "When I met Ron Atkinson, all he wanted to talk about was himself. That put me off."

Big Ron, ever the joker, was not long in responding. After United faced Arsenal — and Nicholas — for the first time, Atkinson was asked what he thought of the Scotsman's performance.

Atkinson replied: "I don't want to talk about that. I only want to talk about myself!"

Hero

England striker Kerry Dixon, who scored 70 goals in his first two seasons with Chelsea, might instead be a hero of Hillsborough.

Sheffield Wednesday boss Howard Wilkinson admits he missed the boat while Dixon was playing for Reading. John Harris, Wednesday's chief scout and ironically a former Chelsea defender, remembers: "I saw Dixon play and told Jack Charlton, who was Wednesday's manager at the time, that he looked very impressive.

"We followed up our interest, but received one or two adverse

reports. I also mentioned Dixon to Howard Wilkinson when he took over in the summer of 1983. But Chelsea nipped in and signed him."

Wilkinson says: "John told me to go out and get Dixon. Eventually I sorted out a match to watch him, but the day before he signed for Chelsea. I was disappointed then and Kerry's subsequent success has made it worse. His powerful style would have suited us."

Blundered

Even the manager widely regarded as the shrewdest in the business has blundered.

Terry Venables, a short odds favourite to be the next England boss, could have signed Mark Hateley when in charge at Queens Park Rangers.

But Venables decided that Hateley was a luxury he could not afford. Shortly afterwards, he joined Portsmouth from Coventry for £190,000.

In the summer of 1984, just one year later, Hateley signed for AC Milan for £915,000. He was an England international and just about the most exciting young player in Europe.

Which just goes to prove that even soccer's most successful managers sometimes hold their heads in despair at the ones who got away.



WORLD CUP



MEXICO 86

Britain's fabulous hat-trick of World Cup qualifiers, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, join 21 other nations in the Finals of the 1986 Mexico World Cup.

To those who advocate a British international XI, here is further proof that Britain's separate nations deserve individual representation — and have once again earned the right to their places in the final stages of the most important and most testing of world football competitions.

Bobby Robson's England, unbeaten in the 1982 Finals in Spain, marched unbeaten through Group Three, conceding only two goals.

Fantastic

Scotland, who have reached the Finals of the past three competitions, make it a fantastic foursome, guided for the major part by the late Jock Stein, so tragically struck down by a heart attack moments after they had qualified, and steered through a play-off with Australia by Aberdeen's Alex Ferguson.

And what about Northern Ireland — Billy Bingham's small but amazing squad of players who enhanced the last competition and now threaten to pose equally terrifying problems in the altitude of Mexico?

We salute all three and remind the world that the British Isles gave football to the world and remains capable, by individual trial in difficult groupings, of taking on the world's best in the shape of our separate nations.

QUALIFIERS

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Mexico, Canada, Algeria, Morocco, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Russia, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Poland, West Germany, Bulgaria, South Korea, Iraq.

SOUTH AMERICA

GROUP ONE

Venezuela 2, Argentina 3; Colombia 1, Argentina 3; Argentina 3, Venezuela 0; Argentina 1, Colombia 0; Peru 1, Argentina 0; Argentina 2, Peru 2; Colombia 1, Peru 0; Venezuela 0, Peru 1; Peru 0, Colombia 0; Peru 4, Venezuela 1; Venezuela 2, Colombia 2; Colombia 2, Venezuela 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
Peru	6	3	2	1	8	4	8
Colombia	6	2	2	2	6	6	6
Venezuela	6	0	1	5	5	15	1
Argentina qualify							



NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA GROUP

Canada qualified after the following series of matches.
Qualifying round: Jamaica withdrew, giving Canada a bye.

Second Round: Canada 2, Haiti 0; Haiti 0, Guatemala 1; Canada 2, Guatemala 1; Guatemala 1, Canada 1; Haiti 0, Canada 2; Guatemala 4, Haiti 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canada	4	3	1	0	7	2	7
Guatemala	4	2	1	1	7	3	5
Haiti	4	0	0	4	0	9	0

GROUP TWO

Ecuador 1, Chile 1; Uruguay 2, Ecuador 1; Chile 6, Ecuador 2; Chile 2, Uruguay 0; Ecuador 0, Uruguay 2; Uruguay 2, Chile 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	4	3	0	1	6	4	6
Chile	4	2	1	1	10	5	5
Ecuador	4	0	1	3	4	11	1
Uruguay qualify							

GROUP THREE

Bolivia 1, Paraguay 1; Bolivia 0, Brazil 2; Paraguay 3, Bolivia 0; Paraguay 0, Brazil 2; Brazil 1, Paraguay 1; Brazil 1, Bolivia 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	4	2	2	0	6	2	6
Paraguay	4	1	2	1	5	4	4
Bolivia	4	0	2	2	2	7	2
Brazil qualify							

CONSOLATION QUALIFICATION GROUP

The runners-up in the three South American groups played off to produce a fifth qualifier from this continent, Mexico already automatic entries as hosts.

Group A: Paraguay 3, Colombia 0; Colombia 2, Paraguay 1. **Paraguay (4-2)**
Group B: Chile 4, Peru 2; Peru 0, Chile 1. **Chile (5-2)**

Final: Paraguay 3, Chile 0; Chile 2, Paraguay 2.

Paraguay qualify on a 5-2 aggregate.

Paraguay (light strip) qualified at the expense of Chile.

COUNTDOWN

EUROPE

GROUP ONE

Belgium 3, Albania 1; Poland 3, Greece 1; Poland 2, Albania 2; Greece 0, Belgium 0; Albania 2, Belgium 0; Greece 2, Albania 0; Belgium 2, Greece 0; Albania 1, Greece 1; Belgium 2, Poland 0; Greece 1, Poland 4, Albania 0, Poland 1; Poland 0, Belgium 0.

POLAND finished group champions.

Belgium played Group Five runners-up Holland in a two-legged play-off.

Belgium 1, Holland 0; Holland 2, Belgium 1.

Belgium qualify on the away goals rule.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	6	3	2	1	10	6	8
Belgium	6	3	2	1	7	3	8
Albania	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
Greece	6	1	2	3	5	10	4



GROUP TWO

Sweden 4, Malta 0; Sweden 0, Portugal 1; Portugal 2, Czechoslovakia 1; W. Germany 2, Sweden 0; Czechoslovakia 4, Malta 0; Portugal 1, Sweden 3; Malta 2, W. Germany 3; Malta 1, Portugal 3; Portugal 1, W. Germany 2; W. Germany 6, Malta 0; Malta 0, Czechoslovakia 0; Czechoslovakia 1, W. Germany 5; Sweden 2, Czechoslovakia 0; Sweden 2, W. Germany 2; Czechoslovakia 1, Portugal 0; Portugal 3, Malta 2; Czechoslovakia 2, Sweden 1; W. Germany 0, Portugal 1; W. Germany 2, Czechoslovakia 2; Malta 1, Sweden 2.

West Germany and Portugal qualify.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
W. Ger.	8	5	2	1	22	9	12
Portugal	8	5	0	3	12	10	10
Sweden	8	4	1	3	14	9	9
Czechs	8	3	2	3	11	12	8
Malta	8	0	1	7	6	25	1

GROUP THREE

Finland 1, N. Ireland 0; N. Ireland 3, Rumania 2; England 5, Finland 0; Turkey 1, Finland 2; N. Ireland 2, Finland 1; Turkey 0, England 8; N. Ireland 0, England 1; Rumania 3, Turkey 0; N. Ireland 2, Turkey 0; Rumania 0, England 0; Finland 1, England 1; Finland 1, Rumania 1; Rumania 2, Finland 0; Turkey 0, N. Ireland 0; England 1, Rumania 1; Finland 1, Turkey 0; Rumania 0, N. Ireland 1; England 5, Turkey 0; England 0, N. Ireland 0; Turkey 1, Rumania 3.

England and N. Ireland qualify.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	8	4	4	0	21	2	12
N. Ireland	8	4	2	2	8	5	10
Rumania	8	3	3	2	12	7	9
Finland	8	3	2	3	7	12	8
Turkey	8	0	1	7	2	24	1

GROUP FOUR

Yugoslavia 0, Bulgaria 0; Luxembourg 0, France 4; E. Germany 2, Yugoslavia 3; Luxembourg 0, E. Germany 5; France 1, Bulgaria 0; Bulgaria 4, Luxembourg 0; France 2, E. Germany 0; Yugoslavia 1, Luxembourg 0; Yugoslavia 0, France 0; Bulgaria 1, E. Germany 0; Luxembourg 0, Yugoslavia 1; Bulgaria 2, France 0; E. Germany 3, Luxembourg 1; Bulgaria 2, Yugoslavia 1; E. Germany 2, France 0; Luxembourg 1, Bulgaria 3; Yugoslavia 1, E. Germany 2; France 6, Luxembourg 0; France 2, Yugoslavia 0; E. Germany 2, Bulgaria 1.

France and Bulgaria qualify.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	8	5	1	2	15	4	11
Bulgaria	8	5	1	2	13	5	11
E. Ger.	8	5	0	3	16	9	10
Yugoslav.	8	3	2	3	7	8	8
Lux'bourg	8	0	0	8	2	27	0

GROUP FIVE

Cyprus 1, Austria 2; Hungary 3, Austria 1; Holland 1, Hungary 2; Austria 1, Holland 0; Cyprus 1, Hungary 2; Cyprus 0, Holland 1; Holland 7, Cyprus 1; Hungary 2, Cyprus 0; Austria 0, Hungary 3; Holland 1, Austria 1; Austria 4, Cyprus 0; Hungary 0, Holland 1.

Hungary qualify. Holland lost to Belgium 0-1, 2-1 on the away goal rule in their two-legged play-off.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	6	5	0	1	12	4	10
Holland	6	3	1	2	11	4	7
Austria	6	3	1	2	9	8	7
Cyprus	6	0	0	6	3	18	0



Both Denmark and Russia qualified for Mexico from Group Six.

GROUP SIX

Eire 1, Russia 0; Norway 0, Switzerland 1; Denmark 1, Norway 0; Norway 1, Russia 1; Switzerland 1, Denmark 0; Norway 1, Eire 0; Denmark 3, Eire 0; Switzerland 2, Russia 2; Eire 0, Norway 0; Russia 4, Switzerland 0; Eire 3, Switzerland 0; Denmark 4, Russia 2, Switzerland 0, Eire 0; Russia 1, Denmark 0; Denmark 0, Switzerland 0; Norway 1, Denmark 5; Russia 2, Eire 0; Russia 1, Norway 0; Switzerland 1, Norway 1; Eire 1, Denmark 4.

Denmark and Russia qualify.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	8	5	1	2	17	6	11
Russia	8	4	2	2	13	8	10
Switz'land	8	3	2	3	5	10	8
Eire	8	2	2	4	5	10	6
Norway	8	1	3	4	4	10	5

GROUP SEVEN

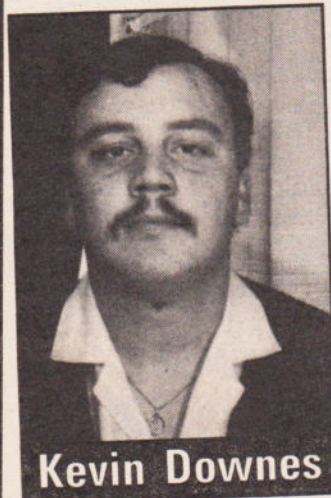
Iceland 1, Wales 0; Spain 3, Wales 0; Scotland 3, Iceland 0; Scotland 3, Spain 1; Wales 2, Iceland 1; Spain 1, Scotland 0; Scotland 0, Wales 1; Wales 3, Spain 0; Iceland 0, Scotland 1; Iceland 1, Spain 2; Wales 1, Scotland 1; Spain 2, Iceland 1.

Spain qualify. Scotland played Oceania Group winners Australia in a two-legged play-off. Scotland 2, Australia 0; Australia 0, Scotland 0.

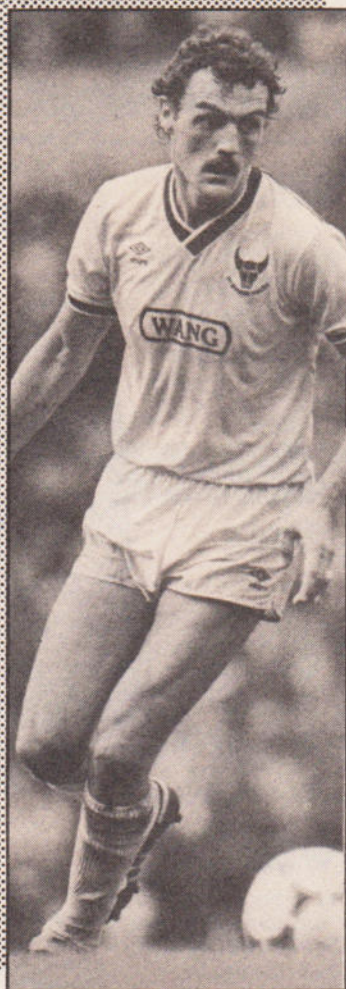
Scotland qualify.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	6	4	0	2	9	8	8
Scotland	6	3	1	2	8	4	7
Wales	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
Iceland	6	1	0	5	4	10	2

Shoot/Braun



Kevin Downes



BRIGGS FOR ENGLAND!

A bid to heal a family rift has resulted in Kevin Downes becoming our latest Fan of the Week.

"My brother, Paul, and I do not get on too well, so you can imagine my surprise when Shoot told me that he had nominated me for the award," says Kevin. "The rift has been healed!"

Paul, not a football follower, has been impressed with Kevin's dedication to Oxford United — and so have we!

Since the age of five, Kevin has been a fan of the club and seen them climb from the Third to the First Division.

"I remember my father used to pass me down to the front of the crowd and I had to stand on a wooden box to see any of the action!" says 18-year-old Kevin.

"We lived in Witney, Oxfordshire at that time but then we moved to Porthcawl, South Wales, where I still live.

"For a period I only saw the side when they played in Wales, but once I got a paper round and received pocket money I started travelling to Oxford.

"It means leaving my home at 7.30 in the morning and not arriving home till 9 at night.

"For midweek games I don't get home before 1.30 the next morning.

"During the rail strike last year it was impossible for me to reach my home before 5.30 in the morning, but it was worth it.

"I've seen some good Oxford sides in my time but the present one is, without doubt, the best.

"I rate Gary Briggs a better centre-half than Southampton and England defender Mark Wright. Briggs should be in the international side.

"I confidently predict Oxford will finish in the top six this season."

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Maurice Evans, boss of ambitious Oxford United and the man quietly expected to become the first Division One manager to be sacked this season, has won his battle for a future.

Oxford chairman Robert Maxwell, the hardest man in Britain to please judging by his hard-line manoeuvres in Fleet Street, has given Evans the vote of confidence he needs to confirm Oxford's right to First Division status.

Maurice refused the manager's job for the first two months of his short reign but after Oxford swept Leicester to 5-0 oblivion, Maxwell persuaded him to wear the crown.

Now Evans is putting his own stamp on an Oxford team which, under Jim Smith, amazed the soccer world by rising from the Third to First Divisions in successive seasons.

Polite

At first there were doubts that this quiet, polite, family man could take over from the successful Smith.

"Players have found me a lot different to Jim," admits Maurice. "He was volatile at times, while I'm the other way. I have a lot of the same footballing beliefs as Jim, but I do things my way."

That's something the players at Oxford have had to come to terms with. When Smith left the players were shocked. Dave Langan, threatened to quit the club, but soon afterwards he agreed to work with Maurice and now the mood at the Manor is happy again.

Evans has already shown that while he has a quiet temperament, he is completely committed to United.

Oxford skipper Malcolm Shotton

GOOD EVANS



sums up the atmosphere at the club when he says: "We would all work our socks off for Maurice."

"When he started as manager here he was a bit quiet, and because Smithy was at times very loud he was a difficult act to follow."

"But everybody here will give 100 per cent for Maurice. We have a lot of respect for him because he's prepared to listen and he also encourages us to

play good football."

Indeed, Evans loves crowd pleasers. That's why he broke the Oxford club record to sign Fulham's Ray Houghton for £150,000.

It's Evans' ability to spot a bargain which first attracted Smith. Evans had brought the likes of Kerry Dixon and Trevor Senior into the star spotlight at Reading and now he is working to establish Oxford as a creditable First Division outfit.

The manner may be far removed from that of local hero Jim 'Bald Eagle' Smith. But Maurice's love of good football is quickly making him every bit as much a respected character.



Evans paid out a club record fee to bring Ray Houghton to Oxford in September.



Franz Carr

Like gold-dust, certain players have reputations that establish them as not only rare but walking wanted posters throughout professional football.

They are young men whose talents have blossomed since last August and now represent assets to their clubs of an ever-growing value.

Aberdeen's Eric Black, whose uncanny knack of scoring in major Cup Finals is the envy of the British game, would fetch a decent cheque if Alex Ferguson was ever daft enough to part with him.

But the deadly young striker is a hero at Pittodrie and just pawing the ground in anticipation of his long-overdue international recognition at senior level.

Tony Cascarino's goals and flair for Third Division Gillingham suddenly became nationally recognised when the Republic of Ireland's recently resigned

manager Eoin Hand gave the youngster international recognition on the basis of his parentage.

He did well despite Ireland's failure to reach the Mexico World Cup Finals and was one of his adopted nation's few stars in their final Group Six fixture, a 4-1 home defeat by Champions Denmark.

Cascarino is now worth ten times as much as he was six months ago.

"A superb prospect in every way," says Chris Waddle... "A player to bring the fans to their feet," says Peter Beardsley... "Skilful, quick and inventive, a real threat," says Ian Rush — the player they are all praising is Newcastle United's Paul Gascoigne.

The Gateshead-born youngster has already won over the St. James' Park fans and shows a level of maturity that

Red-Hot Prope



Arsenal's Stewart Robson (left) and Gillingham striker Tony Cascarino (above) are developing into players destined to win many international honours in the coming years.

continues to thrill his team-mates.

His awareness of space, precision of passing and ability to beat people in one on one confrontations makes Gascoigne an old-fashioned name with a futuristic appeal.

Arsenal's Kenny Sansom's confidence was virtually shattered by a teenage 'unknown' when Nottingham Forest's Franz Carr ripped into England's regular left-back this season.

Carr, black, brilliant and bedazzling, was snapped up by Brian Clough after an apprenticeship with Blackburn Rovers and is emerging as a winger of stunning pace, trickery and confidence.

He runs at defenders, commits them, beats them and whips the ball into the centre with either foot. He is unafraid of tough tackling and seems content with a ball at his feet, jinking this way and that — the absolute answer to those tactically-obsessed diehards who are wrecking the modern game as a spectacle.

Give young Carr another 12 months and he will be priceless.

Arsenal, victims of Carr's brilliance, boast a stunning young talent of their



Paul Gascoigne is rated Newcastle's brightest prospect for a long time.

rties

own. Nicknamed "Jolly Fine Show" by former player John Hollins, public schoolboy Stewart Robson has developed into one of the hardest, shrewdest and most creative midfield players in the League.

"I've long since accepted the leg-pulling about my background," says the quietly spoken Robson. "I just buckled down to listening and learning from the experienced players around me. When the ragging stopped the education began. They have been marvellous."

So has the form of the 22-year-old whose displays for the England Under-21 side under Dave Sexton prompted the boss to this comment: "Stewart is an excellent young player with great promise and admirable maturity for his age."

What price Stewart Robson if Arsenal put him on the list tomorrow?

Players such as these brilliant young prospects punctuate our game with colour and quality. They are the living proof that all is not as black as the critics of modern football claim.

Cup Final king Eric Black would command a king's ransom should Aberdeen ever decide to part with their brilliant young striker.



SPOTLIGHT ON *Sheffield Utd.*

King Edwards

Sheffield United are heading towards the First Division with a rush of goals from Keith Edwards and that veteran master striker Peter Withe.

"We reckon that our promotion chances are as good as any side's in the Second Division," says Edwards. "And from a personal point of view, it's terrific to be in partnership with Peter."

"I'm happy to make chances for him. He certainly makes them for me. Peter goes through the middle, doing all the graft and taking stick from the two central defenders, and that opens up opportunities for me."

"Because Peter is doing such a tremendous job, I have been able to make runs late from deep positions. Defences are having a harder time picking me up."

Goal-king Edwards is fiercely proud of his scoring record. "Fifteen goals last season and people jumped to the conclusion that I had a thin time!"

'Record'

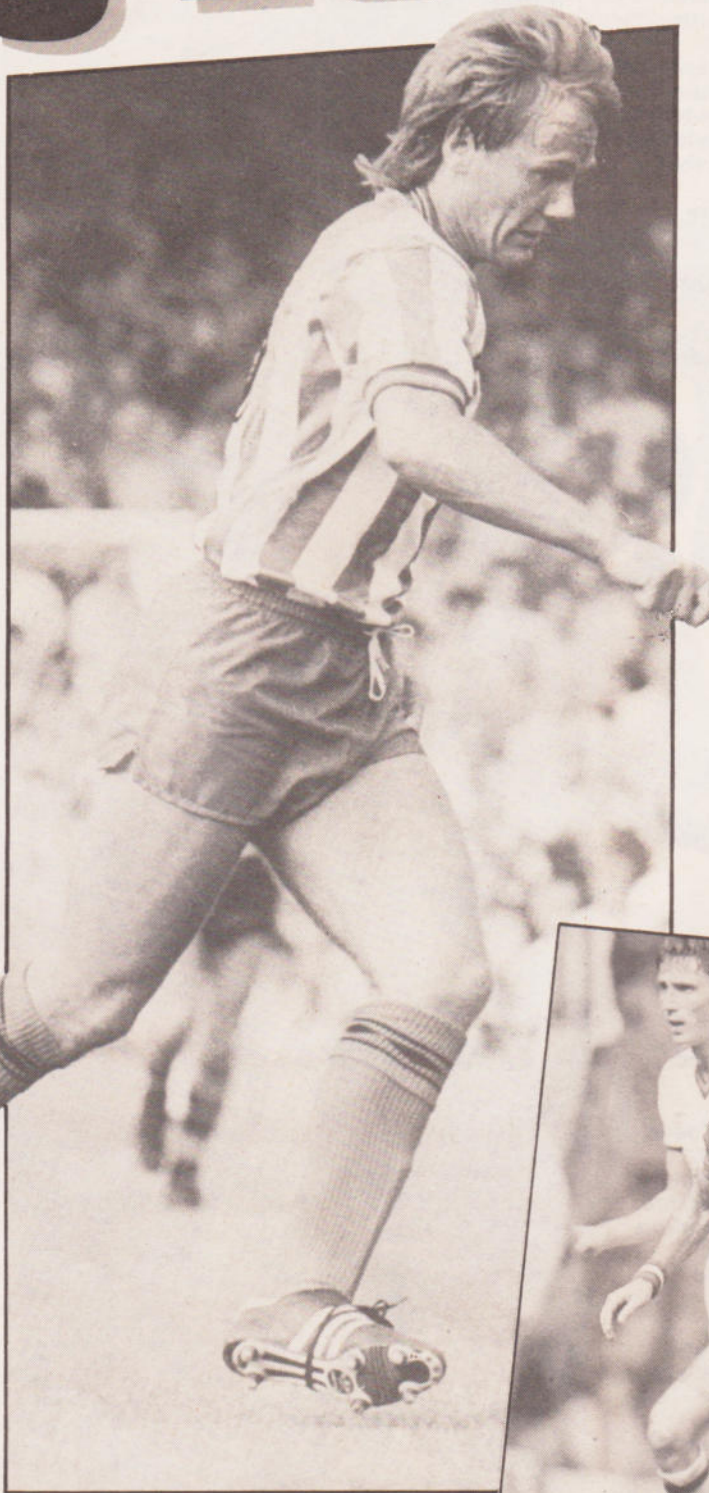
"In fact, those 15 goals came from 32 games, so I'm still maintaining my record of a goal every other game. This season, since Peter and I came together, I'm leaving that behind!"

A pelvic injury ended Edwards' season last term and he was still out of manager Ian Porterfield's line up in August.

"I went into the campaign with what I was convinced was my best side at the time. I'm just delighted with the way Keith has responded," says United's ambitious boss.

"He is hungrier, more determined, getting his goals again and playing better than I've ever seen him."

Keith confesses: "I didn't like it when I was sitting in the dug-out



for the opening games of the season. But I couldn't complain. The side were battling to get their results.

"I used that time to watch Peter. You've always got the chance to learn something following the moves of a player like him."

Although United picked up the early points, a lot of their football was hard work — and Withe was not consistently among the goals. Now, with the alert Edwards hunting in tandem, the former England striker is making and taking them with all that famed deadliness.

'Ambition'

At the start of the season, Withe told Shoot: "My life needed a new quest. I've always got to be on the look out for a fresh ambition and Ian Porterfield has opened a new door."

"I want to play my part in making Sheffield another Manchester, Liverpool or Birmingham — a big city with two First Division clubs."

That is exactly the challenge now shaping up from United. With Edwards and Withe leading the charge!

And with Edwards scoring nine times in one recent four-match burst, it looks as though Sheffield United are determined to go up in style.



Peter Withe is now a regular marksman for United.

LAST SEASON'S RECORD

Second Division: 18th
F.A. Cup: 3rd Round
Milk Cup: 2nd Round

HONOURS

First Division Champions: 1897-98.
Second Division Champions: 1952-53.
Fourth Division Champions: 1981-82.
F.A. Cup winners: 1899, 1902, 1915, 1925.

SHEFFIELD UTD



BACK ROW (left to right): Tony Philliskirk, Donald Peattie, Phil Thompson, John Burridge, Joe Bolton, Paul Stancliffe, Paul Tomlinson, Ken McNaught, Peter Withe, Glenn Cockerill (now Southampton).

MIDDLE ROW: Patrick McGeerey, Kevin Arnott, Brian Smith, Mel Eves, Billy McEwan (coach), Paul Smith, Lee Walshaw, Jeff Eckhardt.

FRONT ROW: Jock McSeveney (asst. manager), Colin Morris, Ray Lewington, Ian Porterfield (manager), Keith Edwards, Tony Kenworthy, Jimmy Dixon (physio).

GLENN FACES

A photograph of Glenn Hoddle, a man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a blue and black patterned sweater. He is seated and playing a light-colored acoustic guitar with a red strap. His head is tilted down towards the guitar. To his right, a silver microphone on a stand is visible. The background is a bright yellow wall with a green horizontal stripe. A large pink treble clef is superimposed on the left side of the image.

GLENN Hoddle, master passer, world class midfielder and scorer of explosive goals, has another side to his personality — a private side the fans know nothing about. Hoddle's other passion, apart from football, is music. Here we look at his alternative talent.

THE MUSIC

THE goals and gifted football Glenn Hoddle produces for Spurs and England could be upstaged by something light years away from sport — music!

Hoddle, whose majestic skills are crowd pullers at White Hart Lane and Wembley, is also hooked on the world of sharps, flats and music decks.

"I experienced a taste of this business when recording a few songs for Spurs and England," says Glenn.

"So I went along to Herne Studios, Sunningdale and learned the complicated workings of the controls in the recording area.

"I love the guitar," he says, "and I'm determined to become good at it."

Moving on to the piano, he says: "O.K., moderate!" trying next the bass guitar and the mandolin.

But it was the microphone that fascinated him most: "I enjoy singing most of all. I would like time to study it seriously.

"But it is all a matter of timing. When the World Cup is over I intend devoting more time to this side of music.

"I appreciate that music is a profession and requires a lot of dedication. But I am very enthusiastic."

Hoddle's voice has impressed a lot of people armed with the knowledge to judge such a skill. Spurs beware! You have a rival.



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YOU couldn't accuse Aston Villa's Steve Hodge of lacking ambition — but he hopes he won't be able to collect his second UEFA Under-21 Championship winners' medal.

The bustling and busy midfielder man was part of the England side which lifted the trophy two summers ago.

And now as captain and an over-age player he has helped Dave Sexton's young Lions book their spot in the next Finals.

But Hodge would love to lose

his place among Sexton's young hopefuls — but only if he can gain promotion to the senior squad in time for the World Cup Finals in Mexico.

He has already seen international team-mates like Mark Hateley and Mark Wright progress from the Under-21s through to the big time.

And he says: "Seeing them go on through to the full side makes you want to do the same."

"Obviously in midfield the competition is far more intense,

with a successful club side because you tend to get noticed more.

"Norwich's Dave Watson has proved that you can get international recognition without belonging to a club that is having success, but it must help.

"My aim is simply to do my best for Villa and hopefully help them to develop a successful side. Everything else will follow from there."

"One of the reasons I left Forest was that I wanted to concentrate

GE

He could replace skipper Robson

but it was really encouraging to be kept in the Under-21 set-up. I thought my international days were over for a while when I passed the age limit, so it was quite a boost to know that I am still being considered.

"With Mexico coming up, though, every professional has got to focus his ambitions on the full squad."

Hodge has certainly every justification for his ambitions. England manager Bobby Robson has already named the 23-year-old as one of the few uncapped players capable of breaking into his squad.

And his manager at Villa Park, Graham Turner, is also backing the full England claims of the player who inspired him to fork out a £400,000 plus fee in August.

Turner says: "If Bryan Robson were to be injured there are not many players capable of filling his role and scoring goals from midfield."

'Talent'

"Steve has got that ability, and in the modern game that is an important talent because you need to get people forward at the right times from deep positions."

Hodge has scored goals consistently ever since he first established himself in Brian Clough's side at Nottingham Forest three years ago.

It was a talent that persuaded Turner to trail him for more than a year and he finally got his man, albeit at a price of more than half a million pounds including all the extras, at the start of this season.

Hodge has already begun to repay that fee with some crucial goals — including one of those that earned Villa a lucrative Milk Cup Quarter-Final tie against Arsenal.

And he believes that club success could go hand in hand with a boost for his international prospects.

"Obviously it helps if you are

on a central midfield role instead of being used as a winger.

"It's been exciting to play with people of the calibre of Mark Walters, Simon Stainrod and Andy Gray.

"We've got the people here to bring us success. Forest are a big club, but Villa are something different again and if we get a winning side together the potential is tremendous."



England skipper Bryan Robson has been sidelined by injury in recent weeks, but Hodge has been in outstanding form recently for Aston Villa (below).



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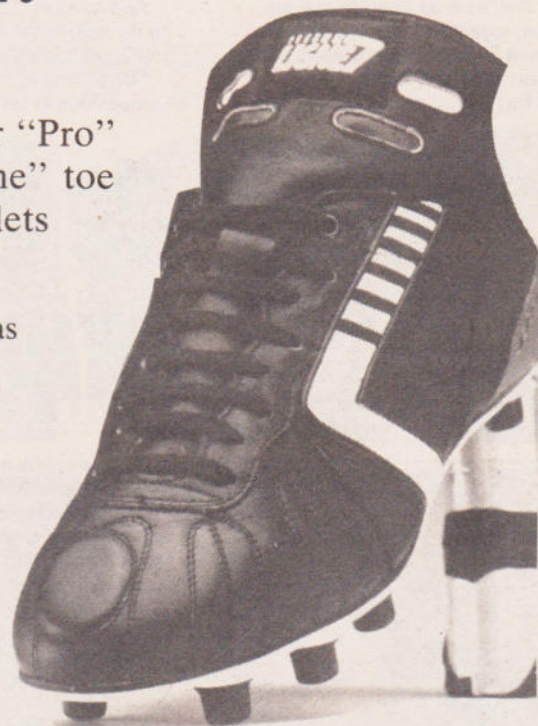
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Things They Say About...

MATT GILLIES, Leicester manager who stunned everybody in football by selling then England No. 1 Gordon Banks to Stoke in 1967 and giving the Leicester goalkeeper's jersey to the virtually unknown 17-year-old Shilton:

"Gordon Banks was a great servant to Leicester City but I had no qualms about selling him to Stoke. I knew that Peter had such outstanding potential that he was the better long-term prospect."

GORDON BANKS, the goalkeeper Shilton followed into the Leicester, Stoke and England teams:

"It was obvious from the moment Peter joined Leicester that he had the ability and dedication to make it right to the top. I helped him as much as I could in training, but Peter didn't need any motivating to become extra special. I was hurt that Leicester decided they could let me go less than a year after helping England win the World Cup but they obviously knew that with Peter they were still in safe hands."

SIR ALF RAMSEY, who gave Peter his first England cap in 1970:

"I was very impressed by Peter's application. He is still eager to listen and to learn and will get even better because he is determined to prove himself the best. I don't get involved in all that nonsense about whether he or Gordon Banks is the better goalkeeper. England are lucky to have had two such fine players because a good goalkeeper spreads confidence throughout a team."

BRIAN CLOUGH, the Nottingham Forest manager who bought Peter from Stoke in 1977:

"Peter Shilton is without any shadow of doubt the world's best goalkeeper. All you have to do is watch his amazing consistency week in and week out and you will understand that what I say is correct. He makes the difficult saves look easy and the impossible saves possible."

The series that is the talk of football personalities through the things that have been said about them...

KEVIN KEEGAN, Shilton's former England and Southampton team-mate:

"Peter is very hard on himself. He is not satisfied with anything less than perfection and punishes himself with extra training sessions if he thinks he has had less than a great game. When they were in England contention it was impossible to choose between Peter and Ray Clemence on match performances but Peter had the edge when it came to his professional approach to the game. He just never stops

trying to improve and the only time he is really happy is when he comes off the pitch not having let the ball past him. Every goal he concedes is like a knife stab to him."

GEORGE DEWIS, former Leicester trainer-coach who had Peter under his wing at Filbert Street from the age of 11:

"I knew almost from the first moment I met Peter that he was star quality. It wasn't just his natural ability but also his attitude. I have never known anybody to match him for dedication, enthusiasm and sheer willpower. He is getting the rewards for all the hours of extra training he put in."

RON GREENWOOD, the former England manager who was never able to make up his mind between Shilton and Ray Clemence:

"I considered myself fortunate to have had two such outstanding goalkeepers as Peter Shilton and Ray Clemence to pick from. Their rivalry was a good thing for them and England. It kept them both on their toes and always looking to produce peak performances."

BOBBY ROBSON, who awarded Shilton his record 75th England cap against Turkey in October:

"I've seen all the great goalkeepers since I came into football as a player in the 1950s — Swift, Trautmann, Yashin, Gilmar, Jennings, Zoff, Banks. You name him and I've seen him. But Shilton has proved himself better than any of them. There is no doubt in my mind that he is the greatest goalkeeper of all time."

LAWRIE McMENEMY, who bought Shilton for Southampton in 1982:

"This man's dedication has to be seen to be believed. He is comfortably established as the world's No. 1 goalkeeper yet still puts in extra training stints to ensure that he does not drop his sky-high standards. Just having him at the back of our defence was like having a goal start because of the psychological boost it gives everybody in the team."

Peter Shilton

Greatest of them all!



EXPOSED The Alex



JUST before taking Scotland into their World Cup second-leg play-off against Australia in Melbourne and securing his nation's passport to Mexico in the summer, part-time manager Alex Ferguson was given an extraordinary offer.

Italian giants and former European Cup kings Inter Milan were willing to pay him a cool £250,000 per year ... excluding mammoth bonuses if he could work his magic spell on them. He turned them down.

What are Ferguson's qualities that make him so special?

SHOOT has put one of the game's most fascinating personalities under the microscope.

name of Alex Ferguson.

But it was Dunfermline who paid out £25,000 for Ferguson's old-fashioned centre-forward play and the goals flowed at East End Park.

In 1967 Rangers eventually made their move. They parted with £65,000 for Ferguson, but things didn't quite hit the consistent note at Ibrox as was expected.

The goals went in, but Celtic still scored more. It wasn't good enough for Rangers and when they parted with £100,000 to buy Colin Stein from Hibs in 1969, Ferguson must have realised his time was almost up.

Ferguson (dark shirt) looks on as Celtic's Billy McNeill challenges during the 1970 Scottish Cup Final.

Ironically, Ferguson's last first team game for Rangers came later that season, in a Scottish Cup Final against Celtic at Hampden.

Rangers were without the suspended Stein, so Ferguson led the attack. Manager Davie White told him to shadow Billy McNeill every time Celtic got a corner-kick.

In two minutes Bobby Lennox floated over a corner from the left, McNeill rose unchallenged and nodded neatly past 'keeper Norrie Martin! Bobby Lennox, George Connelly and Steve Chalmers made it a landside 4-0 triumph for Celtic and Ferguson never played for Rangers again.

He moved out the following season to play for Ayr United and Falkirk, but, sadly, his best days were behind him.

Shock for Rangers

ALEX FERGUSON was born in Govan, Glasgow, in the shadow of Ibrox Stadium. It was always his greatest ambition to play for Rangers.

Like most things, he eventually got his wish, but he took an exceptionally strange route to Ibrox.

He kicked off his playing career with Queen's Park in the early 60's before turning professional with St. Johnstone.

It was with the modest Perth club that he first let star-studded Rangers know of his presence when he scored all three goals as Saints notched up a sensational 3-2 victory at Ibrox.

Rangers were to remember the



Glory-hunter

WHEN Alex Ferguson walked into a damp, dusty, run-down Central Park Stadium more famous for stock car racing, he couldn't have known he was about to embark on a glittering managerial career.

Cowdenbeath, a part-time outfit in the Second Division, were merely plodding along without any hopes of great success. But that wasn't enough for their new boss.

He had hard and fast ideas and he was determined to put them into operation in this unlikely setting. It wasn't long before others were impressed.

St. Mirren liked what they saw,

REAL Ferguson

Pet hate

ALEX FERGUSON has a pet hate in football — he dislikes being called 'Fieri Fergie'.

It's a name that was earned during his playing days because of

manager in British football, ahead of others such as Ron Atkinson (Manchester United), Brian Clough (Nottingham Forest) and Lawrie McMenemy (Sunderland).

And, of course, the money received from the SFA for taking over Scotland on a part-time basis will also come in handy.



Eric Black sets Aberdeen on the road to victory against Real Madrid in the 1983 European Cup-Winners' Cup Final.

made him an offer and found themselves on the way up.

Ferguson led the team into the newly-formed Premier Division and introduced exciting young talent such as Tony Fitzpatrick and Frank McGarvey.

But in the summer of 1978 Ferguson and St. Mirren parted after a row.

At the same time Billy McNeill left Aberdeen to return to Celtic. Ferguson was in the Pittodrie hot seat shortly afterwards.

Since then he has won three Premier Division Championships.

The Scottish Cup on three successive occasions and the League Cup was won this season after a victory over Hibs.

And of course, the European Cup-Winners' Cup was claimed in 1983 when Aberdeen beat Real Madrid in Gothenburg.

A year later Aberdeen played European Champions SV Hamburg in the Super Cup, drawing 0-0 in West Germany and winning 2-0 at home to bring more prestige to Pittodrie.

In disgrace

ALEX FERGUSON and John Greig were great buddies during their Ibrox playing days and that friendship has continued to this day.

But both men blush profusely when reminded of an afternoon at Ibrox when they were in opposition.

Greig lined up for Rangers while Ferguson was with Falkirk and eager to show that the Ibrox side were far too quick in parting with his services.

Both players left their friendship in the dressing-room as they clashed with each other frequently.

The inevitable happened in the second-half. The ball was in the Rangers penalty-area as Greig shepherded it back to his 'keeper.

Ferguson fought for the lost cause, there was a clash and down went both players. The referee had no alternative once the melee was sorted out. Greig and Ferguson headed for an early bath in disgrace.

Ferguson, wearing Falkirk's colours, clashes with Rangers defenders Ron McKinnon and John Greig (right).



his uncompromising approach.

And when he has occasionally let off steam with erring players, Ferguson has found the nickname cropping up again.

Obviously it's a headline writer's dream. It can fit so aptly, but, to be fair to the Pittodrie manager, he has outgrown those sort of tantrums.

He now adopts a level-headed attitude to most things. He has matured and prefers to look at things logically.

The temperament may not be totally in check (Gordon Strachan still talks of the day he knocked over a tea urn at half-time because he wasn't too happy) but Ferguson has earned the right to shrug off the over-used adjective.

Top earner

MONEY isn't one of 43-year-old Alex Ferguson's favourite topics and it's not one you find him discussing readily.

But the Aberdeen balance sheet, issued this season, outlined that a Pittodrie employee had earned £120,000 in the last tax year.

You don't have to have an Oxford education to work out that the lucky individual in question was Ferguson.

That means he is the best-paid

Top target

YOU would have been forgiven for believing Alex Ferguson had seen and done it all in football. You would be dead wrong.

His main ambition is to win the European Cup for Aberdeen and he will not settle for anything less.

He believed he had a side capable of winning the trophy last season but they went out on penalty-kicks in East Germany.

His superb team are in the Quarter-Finals this season and Ferguson is demanding that there will be no repeat of last term.

World Cup winners

ALEX FERGUSON will take Scotland to the Mexico World Cup Finals determined to succeed. Defeat is not a word he accepts.

Scotland have reached four successive World Cup Finals, but have failed to reach the later stages of all three previous appearances on goal difference.

Ferguson, you can bet, will have something to say about that and will demand an improvement!

And what about after Mexico? Will the SFA try to make the job permanent? Will Ferguson even contemplate staying on, even in a part-time capacity?

Intimated

No one is talking about that just now. But the SFA have intimated they believe the job is a full-time one while Ferguson is still happy with the day-to-day running of a club side.

Maybe some day he will return in a full-time capacity. It should be remembered that the late Jock Stein was the manager of Celtic back in 1965 when he took over the Scotland international job in a caretaker capacity for World Cup-ties against Finland, Poland and Italy.

He then went back to Celtic, but returned as full time boss five years ago. Ferguson, a disciple of the Stein soccer doctrine, may stage an action replay.

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J



JOKER JOHN

Laughs again

LIFE is never dull when John Bailey is around.

The 28-year-old left-back was the joker in the pack at Everton for six years.

Now Bailey's own brand of Scouse humour is providing plenty of laughs in the Newcastle United dressing-room following his £80,000 transfer in October.

His antics in the past have included arranging a surprise visit from a kissogram girl for Everton manager Howard Kendall.

And Bailey once put the Goodison club doctor's shoes on a lorry and watched them disappear down the motorway.

He is also a regular visitor to joke shops, looking for new tricks to play on team-mates. Not surprisingly, he was born on April Fool's Day!

Bubbly

Bailey is proof that football can be fun — although his last year at Everton tested his bubbly character.

The former Blackburn Rovers defender played only 16 games last season as Everton won the League title and admits: "I never really felt part of the first team set up."

It was hard for Bailey to accept he had become a bit-part player after being an automatic choice for so long and figuring in the 1984 F.A. Cup winning side only months earlier.

"It was very frustrating," he



recalls. "I found it soul destroying to train every day, then play in the reserves every ten or 14 days. It was getting me down."

That's why Bailey didn't have to think twice about his move to Newcastle.

"I had virtually made up my mind before meeting manager

Willie McFaul," he admits.

"This is just the sort of challenge I need at this stage of my career and I'm back to my old enthusiastic self."

It was still a wrench for Bailey to leave Merseyside, where he was born and went on to support Liverpool as a youngster.

But he points out: "I've come to a similar city where they love their football. Merseyside and Tyneside football fans seem to share the same sense of humour and passion for the game. They also like a trier — and I think they've got one in me."

"Maybe I'm not the best defender in the world, although I've worked hard to improve my game, but I'll always give 100 per cent and do my best to entertain the fans."

"It helped me build a nice rapport with the fans at Everton and I hope to do the same with Newcastle's supporters."

"They will find that the laughing stops when I get on the field. That's when I concentrate on playing."

LAUGH LINE



Sivebeck's threat

Johnny Sivebeck's arrival from Denmark could start one of the biggest shake-ups in my time as a Manchester United player.

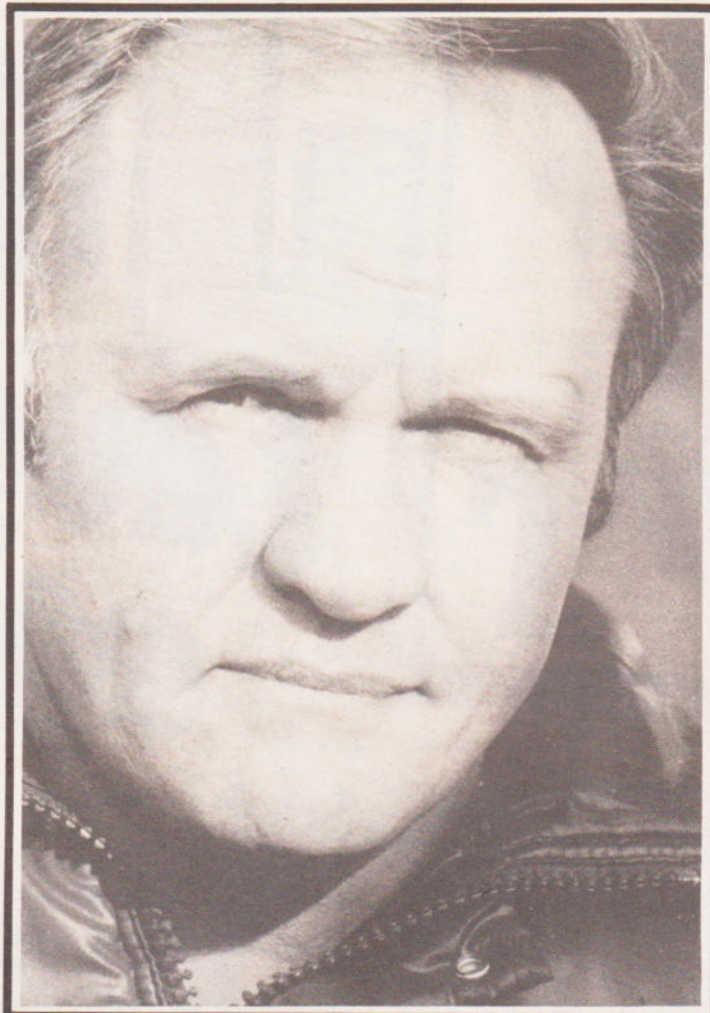
Johnny's transfer increases the pressure on us all to play for our places. Ron Atkinson won't bat an eyelid if he is forced to drop one of his big stars.

The boss is paid to make decisions and he won't duck them. I reckon he will face some of the hardest choices he's had to make in his five years at Old Trafford when we're all fit for first team action.

Make no mistake about it — Johnny Sivebeck is first team material!

To be honest, I didn't know a thing about him before he signed from top Copenhagen club Vejle (I've had to check the spelling).

The first I heard of him were rave reports from Frank Stapleton and Kevin Moran, our two Republic of Ireland players, who played against Johnny in Dublin last month.



The boss won't duck decisions

He scored a cracking solo goal for Denmark by running half the length of Lansdowne Road. He is only 24 and has typical Danish skill and speed, which he combines with a lot of athletic power. This lad will surprise people.

Johnny's arrival brings Manchester United's list of international players to an incredible 19.

His late arrival made it impossible for him to appear in Manchester United's "League of Nations" picture with my column.

There are other absentees. John Gidman, who won an England cap in 1977 and would have won several more if a

certain Phil Neal had not played at right-back, was missing injured from the photo-call; England Under-21 star Colin Gibson was still at Villa; and Jesper Olsen, a Danish star, was blaming his mother!

Let me explain. The order went out: "Bring your international shirts tomorrow, lads, because we're posing for a special Shoot photograph."

All except Jesper carried out the instruction. Poor Jesper couldn't be photographed because all his red and white Denmark shirts are sent home to his mum.

Gordon Strachan braved the pain of a dislocated collarbone to pull his Scotland shirt on.

Getting picked for your country is a golden moment in any player's career. To be honest, I never thought about playing for England in my early West Brom days until a comment made in one of my early appearances.

I scored a goal and Len Cantello turned to me and said: "Keep that up Bryan and you'll play for England one day."

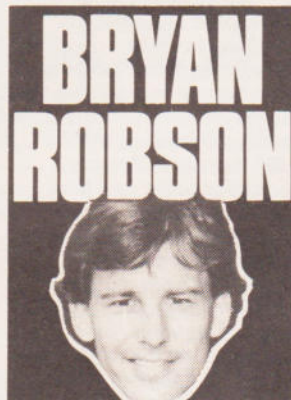
I had to wait a few more years to achieve that honour but shall never forget my debut against the Republic of Ireland at Wembley in 1980.

I was so proud of that first England shirt that I framed it and sent it home to Mum.

I got the shock of my life when someone told me the other day that my next England cap will be my 50th. If I can get over all these wretched injuries I should reach the half century mark against Israel in a friendly in February.

We are given a new England shirt for every game and many of mine are now in the possession of people I have never met.

What happens is this: I give some of my shirts to charity and they are raffled at testimonials, benefit nights, dances and other



special fund-raising occasions.

I have seen some of the shirts raise as much as £400.

I have never met a footballer who is not proud to play for his country. The international rivalry at Manchester United is frightening.

Warning

If I'm due to play for England against Moran and Stapleton in Dublin, they'll spend the previous week warning me about the hammering we'll get.

Norman Whiteside spares nothing in the tackle if he's in the green of Northern Ireland and I'm wearing a white shirt.

I don't think I've ever met a more enthusiastic international player than a man who has yet to



Colin Gibson won an England Under-21 cap four years ago and hopes to add to that now he's joined us at Manchester United.

to United stars



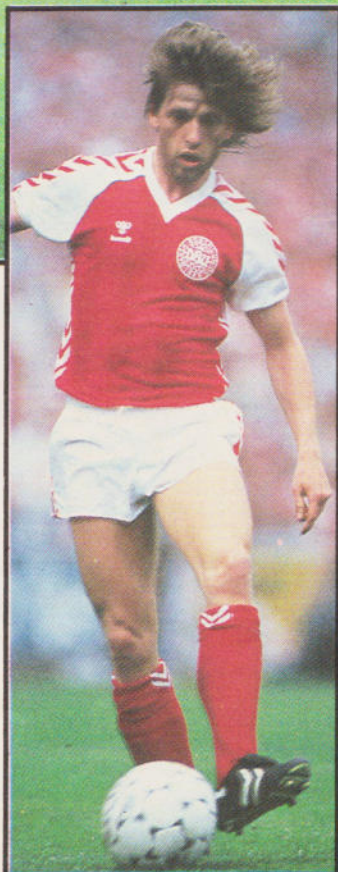
Gary Bailey; John Gidman, Arthur Albiston, Paul McGrath, Graeme Hogg; Gordon Strachan, Bryan Robson, Jesper Olsen, Norman Whiteside; Frank Stapleton, Mark Hughes.

Chris Turner; Mickey Duxbury, Colin Gibson, Kevin Moran, Billy Garton; Remi Moses, Johnny Sivebeck, Clayton Blackmore, Peter Barnes; Alan Brazil and Joe Hanrahan, our new striker from Irish part-timers University College Dublin.

If that squad is not good enough to win the Championship then we should all throw ourselves in the Manchester Ship Canal!

On behalf of my Manchester United team-mates and the England squad, may I wish all Shoot readers and their families a very happy Christmas and a champion New Year.

Bryan Robson.



Johnny Sivebeck (above) and Jesper Olsen (left) are both Mexico bound with Denmark, and now John Gidman (right) is finally fit he wants to reclaim his England place.



win half a dozen England caps.

I'm referring to Dave Watson, the giant Norwich centre-half. He trains with England as if his life depended on the next tackle.

What I love about Dave is that he has yet to command a regular England place — but you'd never know that from the energy he pours into making himself a possible first choice.

One of the reasons United's stars look forward to making international appearances is that it offers you something different from the domestic scene.

Those European nights were magic until UEFA banned us this season. Flying off somewhere with Bobby Robson's England team gives you the same lift.

With the incredible depth of talent we now have at Old Trafford, Manchester United's first team and reserves are two of the best sides in the land.

As a Christmas exercise, I have picked two teams from the Old Trafford squad that could give any other First Division club in the country the battle of their lives.

How about these two line-ups:

England

John Gidman
Colin Gibson

Denmark

Johnny
Sivebeck
Jesper Olsen

And Manchester United's international team group overleaf

Shoot!





Wattions

BACK ROW (left to right): Paul McGrath (Republic of Ireland), Frank Stapleton (Republic of Ireland), Gary Bailey (England), Norman Whiteside (Northern Ireland), Kevin Moran (Republic of Ireland).

MIDDLE ROW: Graeme Hogg (Scotland Under-21), Mark Hughes (Wales), Peter Barnes (England), Clayton Blackmore (Wales), Gordon Strachan (Scotland).

FRONT ROW: Arthur Albiston (Scotland), Mike Duxbury (England), Bryan Robson (England), Remi Moses (England Under-21), Alan Brazil (Scotland).

One massive injection of confidence is all Chelsea need to win the League Championship.

That's the opinion of skipper Colin Pates, who says his team lack only belief in themselves away from home.

"When we won the Second Division Championship, we always went out on away grounds believing we would win. But when you reach the First you play against better sides and at times this season, we have settled for a draw," Pates admits.

"It is a matter of believing we are good enough to go away and win. "We have tended to be a little more cautious. That means sitting back

rather than playing as we do at home. Perhaps we fear to play too much attacking football away from home. We have sat on a draw or two, when we could have done better. Our recent draw at Liverpool proved that we can live with the best of them."

The 24-year-old defender continues: "We haven't played our best football yet, not by a long way. We played well in the odd game early on but not as we can do. When we turn it on, people had better watch out. Because no one has yet seen the best of players like Kerry Dixon, David Speedie and Pat Nevin.



Colin Pates hates –

**AWAY-
DAY
BLUES**

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£10 for Star Letter, £4 for others published. Overseas readers receive SHOOT T-shirts (please state size: small, medium or large). When writing please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue.



This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from Bob Planeman of Ravendale Road, Priestfields in Middlesbrough.

CUP CASH IN

Littlewoods' £2 million sponsorship of the League Cup is a great financial boost for football. Now let's see the F.A. Cup hired off to the highest bidder — it must be worth a king's ransom.



Because the F.A. Cup has more tradition and prestige than any other trophy in world football, a lot of people don't like the idea of getting a sponsor for it. But if we're being realistic, the game cannot afford to turn down the

sort of money they can get for the F.A. Cup. If they've any sense, they'll do it on a yearly basis. So this year it could be the British Leyland F.A. Cup and next year it could be the Sainsburys F.A. Cup. At least that way the trophy won't lose its identity, which is what has happened with the League/Milk/Littlewoods Cup. And if in two or three years time the F.A. decide they don't need a sponsor for the Cup any more, they're not committed to having one.



Mabbutt for Mexico

Tottenham's Gary Mabbutt is the most versatile player in England. He should be in the World Cup squad as he could fill in for almost anyone.

MARCO GOSTOWSKI, FINLAND.



Yes, he is very versatile, but he's been injured so much that you can't say he should be playing for England. If all had worked well, he'd still be a regular in Bobby Robson's team, but his chances of making Mexico now seem slim. Mabbutt (right) is among a group of two dozen players challenging for two or three places in the squad. He's been playing very well for Spurs lately, but must do it over a season, not six games.



Aussie gripe

It was unfair that Australia had to face Scotland in a World Cup play-off. Canada, South Korea, Morocco and Algeria all qualified without facing a play-off, so why didn't we?

CRAIG MARSHALL, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.



I really don't know. The way FIFA organise anything is a mystery to all mankind. It certainly seems tough on you Aussies, particularly as it means there'll be no representative from the Oceania group out in Mexico. The only consolation I can offer you is that there are even better nations than your lot who won't be at the Finals next summer.

SOUNDING OFF

Why does football have no official spokesman to let the general public know just what is going on? All we've got are men like Graham Kelly, whose only comment is invariably "no comment". It's not good enough. Don't the idiots realise that the longer we're kept in the dark, the more disenchanted the punters are becoming with our national sport. And if rumours of a players' strike are true, that will be a real nail in the coffin for football. People reckon our stars are paid too much already. Every other industry in the country has had to accept the closure of uneconomic businesses. Why does football think it's any different? My hope for the New Year is for the game to appoint someone official to put us all in the picture.

Doc's dilemma

This time last year Tommy Docherty said that Jim Melrose was "the new Denis Law". Now he's saying Frank McAvennie is "the new Denis Law". Is the Doc (right) obsessed with a certain former United player?

NIGEL BISHOP, WOLLASTON, W. MIDLANDS.



There will never be another Denis Law — he was a one-off and it's very unfair to compare any current player with him. But McAvennie is certainly nearer to it than Melrose. The way he moves and the blond hair are certainly reminiscent of Denis. And I don't think he's a flash in the pan, either. He's going to be a great asset to both West Ham and Scotland in the next few years.



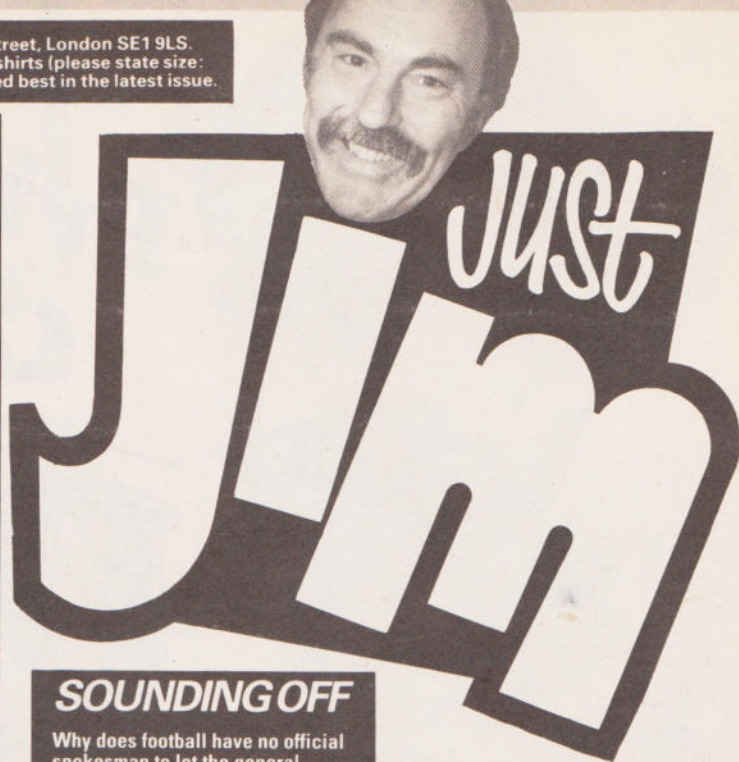
Wally of the week

I know you are a great fan of your former Spurs team-mate Pat Jennings, but I cannot understand why. If he was English, Pat wouldn't have won a single international cap.

PAUL BIXLEY, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS.



Oh dear, what a festive fool you are. Pat is the best goalkeeper of all time. I'm glad for Gordon Banks, Peter Shilton and Ray Clemence that Pat wasn't born in England. Just think of all that goalkeeping talent sitting around waiting for a chance to play at international level. On the other hand, what a pity that he wasn't born in Scotland. Now there's a country who really could have done with a decent 'keeper!



Crazy Villa

Aston Villa must be crazy to pay £400,000 for Paul Elliott when he couldn't even get into the Luton team.

JOHN FORSTER, DENTON BURN, NORTHUMBERLAND.



It's certainly ironic that they've had to pay so much for a guy who was kept out of the Luton team by Steve Foster, sold by Villa for about seventy grand! But Villa desperately needed someone at the back and Elliott has always looked a very good centre-half whenever I've seen him. Villa weren't the only club to fancy him, so Graham Turner couldn't afford to hang about and haggle over the price. Turner has had to rebuild his side from scratch and is doing a good job.

Prince Charles Captain of our

Dream

We have selected a team of celebrities and cast them in the playing roles in which we think they would be best suited. This is how we picture it...

JASPER CARROT lines up as Trevor Francis, who was his favourite player when he was a director of Birmingham City. He looks like him and tries to play like him when turning out for showbiz teams. One thing's for sure, there will be no blues on the pitch when he starts playing for laughs.

PRINCE CHARLES would be the Bryan Robson of our dream team of celebrities. He has proved himself an action man in the past and has the sort of leadership, drive and energy that typifies Robson's game. The Prince would be majestic in midfield and a winning goal would be his crowning glory. At the Palace, of course!

JOHN McENROE will play in goal as Peter Shilton. If he misses the ball with his hands he can always catch it in his mouth, and he is certain to give his team-mates a good service with his clearances. The linesmen will be issued with earplugs.

all star Team

BOB GELDOF takes over the shirt of his countryman Liam Brady. Bob will be the ideal linkman in midfield because he has proved there is no one to touch him at getting all the stars to play together in harmony.



LARRY HAGMAN gets the role of veteran winger John Robertson. As this JR, the Dallas star would be trying to strike goals instead of oil. He is a master of the double cross, which means he will be useful on either wing, and he is always making passes!



ARTHUR SCARGILL fills the boots of Ian Rush. He is the best-known striker in the land and the only way to stop him will be to put a picket line across the goal. He is particularly dangerous when attacking from the left wing.



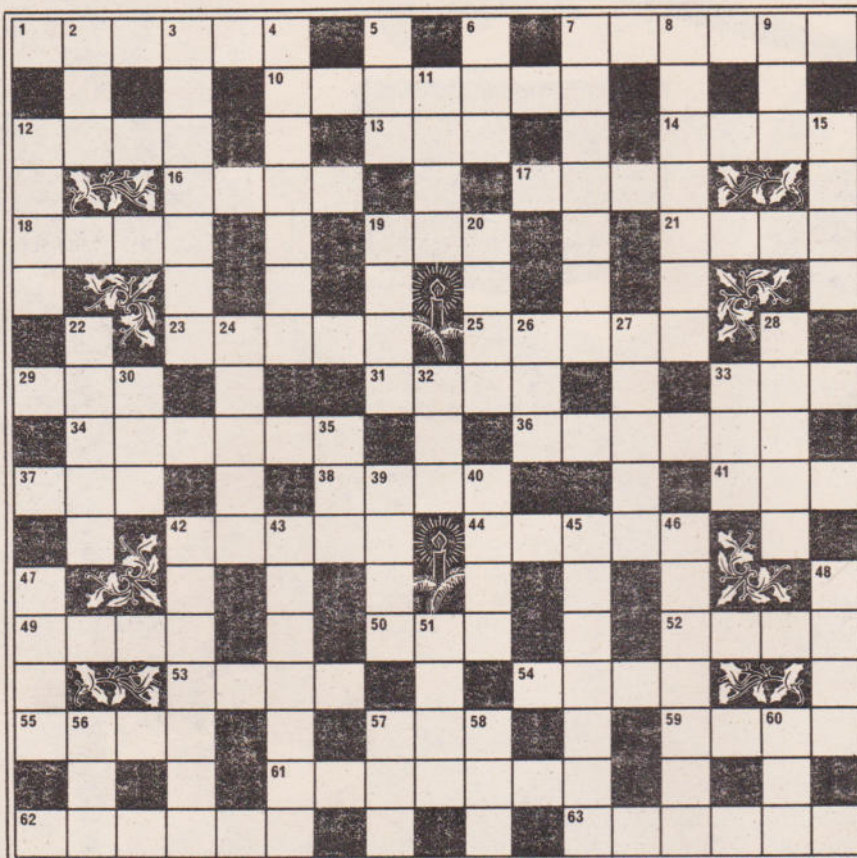
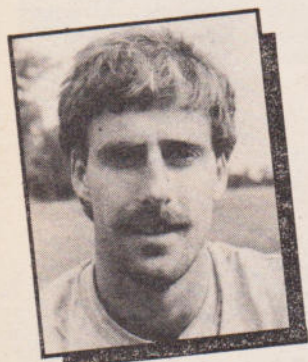
MARGARET THATCHER gets Bobby Robson's job. She is very experienced at international management and might even fancy her chances at No. 10. She must be careful not to upset the balance of the team by having too many right wingers.



GIANT CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- (1) Brian —, Watford captain. (6)
 (7) David —, Arsenal defender. (6)
 (10) Graham —, Spurs defender. (7)
 (12) — Moses, Manchester United midfielder. (4)
 (13) Gary —nister, Queens Park Rangers striker. (3)
 (14) They are changed at half-time! (4)
 (16) The 1st, 6th, 2nd and 7th letters of Swindon Town. (4)
 (17) Franz —, Nottingham Forest winger. (4)
 (18) Mick Mc——hy, Manchester City defender (below). (4)



- (19) Scottish First Division club from Somerset Park. (3)
 (21) — Coton, Watford goalkeeper. (4)
 (23) John —, Arsenal 'keeper. (5)
 (25) Ken —, Norwich boss. (5)
 (29) —enham Hotspur. (3)
 (31) The 5th, 2nd, 1st and 6th letters of Southend United. (4)
 (33) — Nevin, Chelsea winger. (3)
 (34) Chris —, Spurs striker. (6)
 (36) Ray Harford is their manager. (6)
 (37) The —; ground of Millwall. (3)
 (38) Paul —out. Transferred in June from Aston Villa to Bari for £850,000. (4)
 (41) — Phillips, Oxford United midfielder player. (3)
 (42) Forename of Nottingham Forest boss. (5)
 (44) Peter —, Sheffield United striker previously with Aston Villa. (5)
 (49) The fans try to — their team on to success. (4)
 (50) —ford United; Fourth Division club. (3)
 (52) Tony —, West Ham defender. (4)
 (53) Shoot has all the latest and best — about the soccer scene. (4)



- (54) The 2nd, 1st, 6th and 7th letters of Port Vale. (4)
 (55) Andy T——, Wimbledon defender. (4)
 (57) —ton Gate; ground of one of the teams in 3 Down. (3)
 (59) — Smith, Leicester City striker (below). (4)
 (61) Craven —, ground of club in 36. (7)
 (62) Auxerre is such a club. (6)
 (63) Eludes a tackle! (5)

CLUES DOWN

- (2) Danny Wall——, Southampton forward. (3)
 (3) City or Rovers of the Third Division. (7)
 (4) John —, Oxford midfielder player. (7)
 (5) Neil W——, Nottingham Forest midfielder man. (3)
 (6) B——ley. Fourth Division club. (3)
 (7) — Ardiles. Forename, in full, of Spurs midfielder. (7)
 (8) Current League Champions. (7)
 (9) Liverpool's colour. (3)
 (11) What the fans might chant at a one-sided game! (4)
 (12) Kevin —ardson, midfield player for 8. (4)
 (15) "States" from the initial letter of Airdrie, Swansea, Stoke and York. (4)
 (19) Rearrange the first four letters of Charlton for a curved structure. (4)
 (20) Bryan —on, Manchester United skipper. (4)
 (22) Paul —, Manchester City defender. (5)
 (24) S——land. Second Division club. (5)
 (26) He's in charge of the game! (3)

- (27) Paul —, Liverpool striker. (5)
 (28) Robbie —, QPR star. (5)
 (30) —nadice Park, Dundee United's ground. (3)
 (32) — Trafford. Home of Manchester United. (3)
 (33) A friend from Crystal Palace! (3)
 (35) If Aberdeen, Dundee and Stranraer give "BUT", what will Derby, Orient and Watford give? (3)
 (39) Rearrange the last four letters of Brechin to give a measure. (4)
 (40) The 5th, 7th, 8th and 6th letters of Motherwell. (4)
 (42) Mark —, midfielder player, for club in next clue (below). (7)
 (43) First Division club from Portman Road. (7)
 (45) Fell over! (7)
 (46) Winners of World Cup qualifying Group Three. (7)
 (47) Ian —, Liverpool striker. (4)
 (48) — Glover, Aston Villa defender. (4)
 (51) —er Road; Ground of Hibs. (4)
 (56) Neil —, West Ham midfielder player. (3)
 (57) Colin P——s, Chelsea captain. (3)
 (58) Paul —lock, Norwich defender. (3)
 (60) Ian D——s, QPR defender. (3)



Answers on page 77

MCGHEE



I'm delighted to be playing alongside a player I used to hate facing — Mark McGhee.

Mark, who joined us last month from SV Hamburg, was a constant threat to Celtic when he played centre-forward for Aberdeen. He was one of the reasons Alex Ferguson's team became the best in Scotland.

Now he is one of us at Parkhead and has already started blasting the goals that I believe will confound the experts who predict his former club will retain the Premier Division title.

We suffered three dreadful

As an Aberdeen player, McGhee terrorised the Celtic defence (inset). But now he's aiming to bring the Championship back to Parkhead.

-Celtic's Champion signing

says PAUL McSTAY

defeats at the hands of Dundee United, Aberdeen and Rangers. But those teams aren't exactly models of consistency at the moment.

Mark is just what we need. And I believe he is a better player because of his time in the powerful Bundesliga.

He has played against some of the best defenders in the world and, despite injury problems that kept him out of the team, scored goals in West Germany.

He made a superb debut — scoring both goals in a 2-0 win over Clydebank. And a width of woodwork denied him a hat-trick.

The possible link-up of Mo Johnston, Brian McClair and Mark McGhee is enough to make Celtic the envy of Scottish football. That's why we will end the season as Champions.

Loudmouth



D.M.

'Pat Nevin' race

PAT NEVIN'S appearance in English football has been nothing short of explosive.

Everyone now knows the name of Chelsea's dynamic Scottish Under-21 winger, yet a couple of years ago he was yet another unknown part-timer playing North of the border.

An inspired £90,000 transfer took the glittering ability of Nevin from Shawfield Stadium, where he played for Clyde for pocket money.

And if there are any English clubs looking for a player with the same sort of adventurous, attacking style they need go no further than Kilbowie Park, modest home of Clydebank.

Gerry Ronald is the name of the youngster currently driving experienced defenders to the brink of suicide with his personal brand of soccer sorcery.

His fame is catching for recently scouts from Liverpool, Everton, Spurs, Chelsea, Southampton and Sunderland were at Kilbowie to see Clydebank in a non-event Stirlingshire Cup-tie against East Stirling.

Ronald was at his mesmerising best and other Bankies to catch the eye were midfielder Gerry McCabe and striker Mike Conroy, who got a hat-trick.

"We like to entertain," says Clydebank chairman Jack Steedman, "and we have players

who like to go forward. We encourage that at Kilbowie."

"People wrote us off before a ball was kicked this season," says Ronald. "We got into the Premier Division on merit, but everyone seemed to want to knock us.

"It's great to hear them now praising us for our attacking approach. We've done well enough, but we know we can do better.

"If any praise comes my way, that's great. But we are a skilful team and, hopefully, we bring entertainment to this League."

Pin-up

Runaway Ronald has been the main pin-up boy and he could follow in the footsteps of players such as Davie Cooper and Bobby Williamson (both Rangers), Mike Larnach (ex-Newcastle) and Tommy Coyne (Dundee United), who have swelled the Clydebank coffers by something in the region of £400,000 in recent years.

Watch out for Ronald. He could do 'a Pat Nevin' and set the First Division alight with his tremendous skills in the near future.

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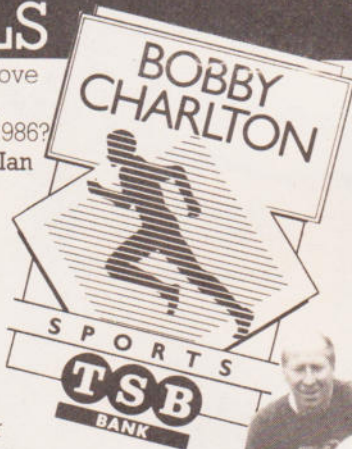
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Man. United won't catch Leeds

The fine start to the season by Manchester United and Reading sent statisticians scurrying for the records books. But these two clubs cannot hold a candle to the Leeds side of 12 years ago.

Although Reading successfully overtook Tottenham's record of 11 straight wins at the opening of their 'double' season in 1960-61, the remarkable start of Leeds to the 1973-74 season must seem like a distant dream.

Under Don Revie's single-minded management, they were undefeated for their first 29 matches.

They eventually succumbed 3-2 at Stoke on February 23, 1974 — after they led 2-0. However, they went on to win the Championship by five points from Liverpool.

—ALLAN CLARKE



In spite of their superb start to the season, the present day Manchester United side are not in the same class as the Leeds team which went 29 First Division games unbeaten in 1973-74, according to Allan Clarke.

scored five against Manchester United and put seven past Southampton. They were the nearest thing to perfection I've known on a soccer pitch.

Trevor Cherry was a relative newcomer to Leeds 12 years ago. But he had become a virtual permanent fixture at left-back.

Cherry vividly remembers Don Revie's team talk before Leeds' 1-0 victory at Manchester City, their 13th match of the season.

The current Bradford boss says: "It was amazing. Most managers would have been delighted by going unbeaten for the first 12 matches.

"But Don said that he was determined Leeds would win the title that season and, if we weren't going to do it, he'd buy some new players who would!

"One night I was attending a dinner where Tommy Docherty was speaking. He said he resented Leeds, we always spoilt his season. He was envious of our success, but full of admiration."

'Advantage'

Allan Clarke is now Barnsley's manager. He says: "It was totally out of character for us to throw away a two-goal lead like we did against Stoke. We never let that type of advantage slip.

"That Leeds team never received a good Press. The club had developed a reputation for kicking their way out of the Second Division, a few years earlier and the stigma stuck.

"In fact, it was often the other way round. Other teams used to try to kick us. They knew that, if they tried to play football, they would be taken to the cleaners. But we also fancied our chances if the going got tough."

But how does that Leeds team compare with the current Manchester United side? Clarke is in no doubt.

"Manchester have had a good start, but we were at the top for ten years. They've achieved nothing compared with us.

"And the standard in the First Division was higher in those days. Now there are half a dozen or so good sides, but then every team had three or four players with the ability to turn a match.

"It is an insult to compare us with the Manchester United of 1985."



Don Revie's team celebrate their Championship success back in 1974.

The majority of that team went into management and all remember that astonishing run with pride and affection. **Norman Hunter**, now Rotherham manager, recalls: "We'd reached the stage where we thought we could go the entire season without losing. But we never received the credit we deserved.

"It didn't worry me at the time but, looking back, it does bug me. People accused us of being a machine, but we

had several world-class players."

Billy Bremner was an outstanding skipper in an outstanding side. Now back as manager at Elland Road, he recalls: "After about a dozen matches, other teams were almost frightened of us. They tended to be wary and laid off us, which gave us room to play.

"But I always thought that Leeds side was at its absolute peak around 1972. We played successive matches in which we

MARVEL MARWOOD

-but not England class

Brian Marwood, who 18 months ago was a little-known forward with Third Division Hull City, is rapping loudly on the door of England manager Bobby Robson.

Snapped-up for £100,000 by Howard Wilkinson, 25-year-old Marwood now provides the ammunition for Sheffield Wednesday's forward cannons Lee Chapman and Garry Thompson as they bear menacingly on the First Division leaders.

His pace, trickery and ability to score goals as well as make them has caught the eye, as has Marwood's consistency.

But modest Marwood is keeping a low profile and will only concede: "I'm delighted to be mentioned in

conversations about England, but I am still a little staggered by the way my career has taken off at club level. "I took a while to adjust but now I am confident and feel I belong in the First Division.

Freedom

"The manager gives me the freedom to roam across the front line so I dislike being described as a winger. That gives the impression that I hog the touchlines. I can cross the ball with either foot in comfort but I can also score goals when the chances arise.

"Yes, I'm flattered to be considered a possible for the England squad, but being realistic it's an outside chance and I am careful not to get carried away with the publicity.

"Wednesday's Championship challenge is uppermost in my mind."

Target Man assessed Brian Marwood's performance in Sheffield Wednesday's 2-1 defeat at Ipswich.

TARGET MAN

Shooting

On this evidence, non-existent. Spent most of the match wide.

Skill

Excellent. Good control, confident on the ball, turns sharply and is comfortable using either foot.

Work Rate

Worked hard from middle and up front. Tackled and grafted when Ipswich had possession.

Heading

Did not get into any heading positions. Defensive heading was minimal as Marwood is happy taking such balls on his chest.

Distribution

Very good. Crossed with precision and used the ball intelligently.

Overall Performance

Good. A busy, hard working forward with quick reactions, pace and close control.

Verdict

Marwood is a fine First Division player, capable of creating scoring chances, beating opponents and coping with bigger, physical defenders. But he is not, on this evidence, England class.

Shaun Elliott's 300th League match for Sunderland, against Barnsley last month, coincided with a much-needed revival by the Wearsiders which carried them into a mid-table spot.

Sunderland's rise in Division Two followed a disastrous start to the season. Now Elliott is able to look forward with guarded optimism.

"We are engaged in the process of getting to know each

a collection of newcomers can get some sort of pattern going.

"That pattern is starting to emerge. We are organised, and we're making the chances that lead to goals. Fortunately, the spirit in the dressing-room never faltered — our morale is first class."

**SURVIVOR
ELLIOTT
LEADS THE...**

ROKER REVIVAL

The 28-year-old Elliott has been at Sunderland 11 years. But he can't recall as bad a start to a season at this term. "For six weeks everything went wrong. I've never experienced anything like it.

"There were five successive defeats and not one goal scored in 450 minutes of football. Even our new manager admitted our start had left him embarrassed, and it was an equal embarrassment to me, as captain."

But embarrassment has now been replaced by determination. There is still room for improvement. But the overall picture is encouraging and we are out to make it better."

other and it has taken time," he says. "After all, the present team includes only three of the players who appeared in the Milk Cup Final last March."

The spectacular clear out was all part of Lawrie McMenemy's plans to usher in a new era at Roker.

But it is the recent arrivals at Sunderland with whom Elliott is now concerned. He says: "Obviously, it is only by training together and playing together that

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**Data File on
two of the
world's
greatest
stars**



**DIEGO MARADONA
NAPOLI**

Born: Lanus, Argentina. 30th Oct, 1960.
Height: 1.68m. Weight: 70kg.
Argentinos
Juniors: 166 games, 116 goals.
Boca Juniors: 40 games, 28 goals.
Barcelona: 36 games, 22 goals.
Napoli: 30 games, 14 goals (to end of last season)

Diego Maradona, just 25, is the most expensive footballer in the world. A talented youngster, he scored regularly for his first club Argentinos Juniors and helped Argentina take the World Youth Cup in 1979. Wider recognition came with his performances for the full national side and brought talk of a 'new Pele'.

Maradona travelled to Europe for the 1982-83 season but his two-year spell with Barcelona was a low point in his footballing career. Hepatitis and injuries limited his appearances to 36 League games.

Guided by his friend and manager George Cysterszpiller, Maradona left for Napoli at a cost of £5 million just as Terry Venables arrived.

The Argentine's arrival transformed Napoli, who took Diego to their hearts, and brought sales of 67,000 season tickets. Fourteen goals helped Napoli to a mid-table position and this season has brought a better start as Maradona attempts to bring a first League Championship to Naples.

The close control and dribbling skills of Diego Maradona were influential in bringing Argentina's World Cup qualification through a 2-2 draw with Peru this summer.

The Aztec Stadium in Mexico may prove the perfect stage for his undoubted skills but in the meantime Diego Maradona aims to show just why he is worth £5 million.

*The
Fabulous
Frenchman*



RADONNA

*the
Magnificent
Millionaire*



Michel Platini is arguably the greatest player France has ever produced and certainly one of the most successful players in Europe today. His career began at Nancy, where his father was Youth team coach, and Platini helped bring the unfashionable club promotion and the 1978 French Cup. Many European clubs recognised Platini's talent but when he moved it was to St. Etienne rather than to Germany or Italy, and brought him a 1981 French League winners' medal.

It was during the 1982 World Cup in Spain that Platini became world famous and the Semi-Final defeat at the hands of West Germany was one of the few disappointments Platini has had to endure. France gained some consolation by winning the European Championship, which they hosted in 1984.

Platini is a prolific goalscorer for both club and country, with many hitting the back of the net from his specialist free-kicks. Last year the Frenchman scored international hat-tricks against Belgium and Yugoslavia.

Michel Platini's three seasons at Juventus have brought the Italian League, Cup, European Cup-Winners' Cup and, most importantly to the Turin club, the European Cup. The European Footballer of the Year has finished as the Italian League's top scorer in each of his three years there.

Juventus lead the Italian League after a series of straight victories and by the end of the season Michel Platini will doubtless be adding further honours to his considerable trophy cabinet.

MICHEL PLATINI JUVENTUS

Born: Joeuf, France. 21st June, 1955
Height: 1.79m. Weight: 73kg
Nancy: 175 games, 98 goals.
St. Etienne: 107 games, 58 goals.
Juventus: 88 games, 54 goals (to end of last season)

ATINI

The man who said 'no' to Manchester United, Liverpool and Everton

Alan McDonald has withstood a severe test of character to win a place in Northern Ireland's World Cup squad.

Even now the 22-year-old QPR defender refuses to accept he has booked his plane ticket to Mexico, in spite of his brilliant performances in the qualifying games in Rumania and at Wembley.

Yet, it could all have turned out so differently for the young man who nearly packed it in before he'd even made his Football League debut.

As a member of the Northern Ireland schoolboy side which won the 1979 European Championship, McDonald had the pick of 15 clubs offering him the chance of stardom.

System

On the advice of his family, he turned down Manchester United, Liverpool and Everton because so many youngsters fail to beat the star system.

Instead, he chose the homely atmosphere of Queens Park Rangers and packed his bags for London to finish his final year at school.

"I was 16-years-old and hated it," recalls Alan. "I had no friends in England and no family. The only other Irish lad at Loftus Road was Ian Stewart and the club stuck us together for 16 hours a day just to keep each other company."

"Every time I went home to Newtownabbey, my sister had to force me on the plane back to London.

"It was only the advice of my brother-in-law, Alan, which kept me going. He told me to give it everything I had for two years, because even if I didn't make the grade after that, at least I'd have no regrets."

It took McDonald the best part of four years before he came to terms with his homesickness, and he admits that marriage to Gaynor

18 months ago has helped him to settle in England.

But even then his troubles weren't over, and in November, 1984 he rocked Rangers with a transfer request.

"I didn't want to leave the club, because the fans had been brilliant to me, but I'd just had enough," he reveals.

"Alan Mullery let me down on a

but if you are a defender you can defend anywhere in the back four.

"I've only played two games for my country, and although I've been pleased with the way things have gone so far, I know that Watford's John McClelland will soon be looking for his place in the team back.

"In terms of actual pressure, my debut in Bucharest was a tougher match than our goalless draw at Wembley. But there was so much

Alan McDonald

Some failure!



couple of occasions and I didn't feel there was any point in staying at the club.

"But the chairman flatly refused my transfer request and that made me realise I figured in the club's plans."

Now McDonald is playing at right-back for Rangers and enjoying every minute.

"After Northern Ireland's draw at Wembley, there were reports that I was unhappy at playing out of position because it might affect my international chances.

"That's not true. Centre-half might be my recognised position,

resting on the game against England that it was more of an ordeal."

Northern Ireland fans will not forget McDonald's massive contribution to that goalless draw, including a goal-line clearance when he hooked a cross from Gary Stevens over his own bar.

Now McDonald believes that Northern Ireland can repeat their success of 1982, when they got through to the Quarter-Finals of the World Cup in Spain.

"We know we're not the most skilful team in the world. But we make up for that with work-rate and comradeship and that's been the main reason for Northern Ireland's success over the last five years.

"I was really annoyed with those England fans who booed us off the Wembley pitch and shouted 'Fix'. That hurt my professional pride, because when you've worked damn hard for something it's an insult for someone to suggest you haven't earned it.

"The majority of people know we deserve our place in Mexico. But people who say it was handed to us on a plate make me mad."

McDonald soars above Kerry Dixon and Gary Lineker to repulse another England attack at Wembley.



RANGERS must rue the day they decided a raw, powerful youngster wasn't up to the standard required at Ibrox...

After watching the Hamilton full-back for almost a season, they finally gave the thumbs down verdict. And John Brown has returned again and again to haunt them.

Brown switched from Hamilton to Dundee two seasons ago and the transformation has been nothing short of remarkable.

Manager Archie Knox has moved him to midfield and it was from that position last term that he thundered in the only goal of the game to knock Rangers out of the Scottish Cup in front of their own shocked fans at Ibrox.

Triumphed

And Brown proved his shooting again when the clubs met in the Premier Division at Dens Park last month. On that occasion he rattled a hat-trick past goalkeeper Nicky Walker as ten-man Dundee triumphed 3-2 against all the odds.

Whisper it around Ibrox... but Brown used to be a Rangers fan!



And on the day he shot them down at Dens Park a lot of friends had travelled to watch the game and support Rangers! They went home miserable.

Brown says: "I heard all the rumours about Rangers watching me a few seasons ago and I must say a move to Ibrox at the time would have been a dream come true.

"But while I waited for the telephone to ring, Rangers obviously changed their mind and looked elsewhere.

"I didn't let it get me down. I just

buckled down to the task of doing my best for Hamilton and then, of course, Dundee came in with a bid of around £40,000.

"It took me about 40 seconds to decide to join them. That's how impressed I was during my first meeting with Archie Knox.

"He laid everything on the table, told me what he expected of me and the club and his progressive attitude swayed me to sign there and then. It's a decision I've never regretted.

'Winner'

"I don't try any harder against Rangers than any other team. For instance, I scored a vital goal against Celtic in a Scottish Cup-tie at Dens Park last season and came close to getting the winner in that match with another shot that scraped the crossbar.

"I always give 100 per cent. It doesn't matter who we are playing. I'm the type of bloke who likes to be involved.

"That's why I was so happy to make the transition from full-back to midfield. You really get involved in that position.

"We've let things slip a bit after edging into fourth place in September. But although we're in the wrong half of the table, there's no way we're going down."

BROWN HAUNTS RANGERS

Bomber Brown blasts Rangers out of last season's Scottish Cup competition at Ibrox.



1984-85 Top of Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford United	42	25	9	8	84	36	84
Birmingham City	42	25	7	10	59	33	82
Manchester City	42	21	11	10	66	40	74

NORWICH celebrations of their Milk Cup success turned sour last summer when they took the plunge into the Second Division while at Manchester City they roared back in the opposite direction after a two-year absence from the big-time. Shoot paid a visit to both clubs to up-date the picture...

The club's massive debt — reputed to be as much as £4 million — casts a giant shadow over Maine Road. But there are no long faces at Manchester City.

They always were one of the most hospitable clubs in the League and the welcome is no less sincere than in the 70s when trophy-winning was a profitable habit.

Now restored to the First Division, City are going about their business with the minimum of fuss.

Manager Billy McNeill, an articulate Scot, clearly relishes the

challenge. "This is a smashing club," he explains, "and everyone is benefiting from the fact that we're back in the First Division."

"We always anticipated it would be a question of trying to consolidate this season. We didn't go into it with our sights set too high. And although life at the higher level has its difficulties, we're enjoying it."

McNeill, while only too aware of the financial restrictions, explains: "If I spent my time worrying about the lack of cash it wouldn't take long for performances on the field to suffer."

"Of course I'm concerned, like everyone else here, but it's something we just have to live with. And with most of the really highly paid players gone, there's not the same demands on our resources. So we're progressing in this area, too."

New stiker Mark Lillis from Huddersfield has settled in well and McNeill is expecting big

ATA TWO who suffered

things from his partnership with another newcomer, Gordon Davies from Chelsea.

"Mark took time to settle but has gone from strength to strength," reports the City boss. "And once Gordon finds a base I'm sure he'll be the same. At the moment he's still commuting back and forward from the London area and that's not the most satisfactory of situations."

"Obviously I'd like to see us further up the table but I honestly feel we deserved more from some of our early season performances. Drawing when we maybe should have won, for example, cost us

a number of valuable points.

"But we're definitely enjoying the flavour of the First Division. Better grounds, bigger crowds and a higher standard of opposition. Mind you, we're also finding mistakes are punished that bit quicker."

"Being in the top level is a boost to our youngsters, the lads who will be knocking on the first team door in a year or two. They've developed more character, more pride and more belief."

"I'm confident we can do enough this season to create a platform and use it to build for better things in the future."

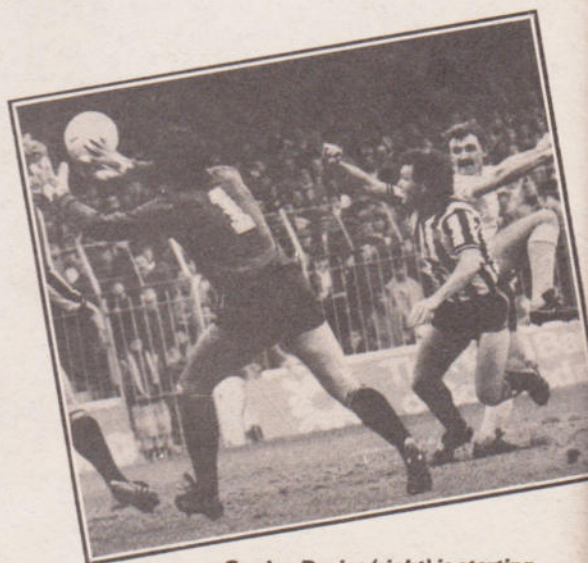


'Great to be back'

BILLY McNEILL

Manchester City — New Faces

PLAYER	FROM	FEE
Mark Lillis	Huddersfield Town	£130,000
Nigel Johnson	Rotherham United	£120,000
Sammy McIlroy	Stoke City	Free
Gordon Davies	Chelsea	£100,000



Gordon Davies (right) is starting to settle in at Maine Road.

LE OF CITIES

mixed fortunes

1984-85 Bottom of Division 1

Norwich City
Sunderland
Stoke City

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
42	13	10	19	46	64	49
42	10	10	22	40	62	40
42	3	8	31	24	91	17



NORWICH CITY FC

Drinkell 'terrific'

KEN BROWN



Norwich City — New Faces

PLAYER	FROM	FEE
Kevin Drinkell	Grimsby Town	£135,000
Garry Brooke	Tottenham Hotspur	Free
Ian Culverhouse	Tottenham Hotspur	£50,000
Mike Phelan	Burnley	£50,000
David Williams	Bristol Rovers	£40,000
Graham Benstead	QPR	£10,000
Wayne Biggins	Burnley	£35,000

exactly the same ones I'd have wanted if we'd stayed in the First Division. Kevin Drinkell, for example, was always a target and is proving a terrific asset.

"We're adequately covered now in every position and we have players like Dennis Van Wyk and Mike Phelan who can slot into a number of different roles. This is essential in case we are hit by a crop of injuries.

"When John Deehan was sidelined I decided to bring in Wayne Biggins from Burnley and he's done very well for us. Now John is fit again it's another bonus."

One of the club's biggest problems was retaining the services of goalkeeper Chris Woods and central defender Dave Watson, regulars in Bobby Robson's England squad who were concerned that Second Division football might jeopardise their international careers.

Watson's partner Steve Bruce, a target for several big clubs, was another who carefully considered

his future before deciding to stay put.

Brown says: "We made it clear to these players that we expected them to honour their contracts and in fairness to them they have knuckled down and got on with the job of taking us back into the top flight.

"Chris and Dave provide tremendous solidarity and Steve, apart from being an excellent defender, has a terrific flair for goalscoring and can always be relied upon to pop one in just when it's needed.

"We didn't make a flying start to the season but with virtually half a new team I wasn't really surprised. It was always going to take time for them to blend together. But now I'd say promotion is a very realistic target."

The wind of change that blew through Carrow Road last summer has reached hurricane proportions in recent weeks to sweep Norwich into the promotion battle.

And Canaries fans are so excited by the displays of their new-look team that they're hailing them the best side to represent the club for a long time.

"I'll go along with that," beams manager Ken Brown. "What I want above anything else is consistency, both home and away, and that's what the lads have been producing recently.

"Of course, there's bound to be the odd hiccup here and there but if we can maintain the standards we have set for ourselves we're entitled to fancy our chances of promotion."

Relegation was a bitter pill for Brown to swallow just weeks after

leading the club to their first trophy success. But he's not a subscriber to the view that Milk Cup glory went to the players' heads.

"I know a lot of people feel we got carried away following our win at Wembley and neglected our League situation. But we were relegated because we didn't get one more point.

'Attitude'

"When we started to slide down the table I always felt we would scrape clear. I wouldn't say the players' attitude was to blame."

Brown was one of the busiest managers in the country during the close season as he fixed up reinforcements to his squad. But he reveals: "I'd have made a number of new signings whether we'd been relegated or not.

"The players I did sign were



AFTER BRIGHTON

SHOCK... ROWS

AT VILLA

ALMOST QUI

The Brighton chairman was on the telephone, pleading: "For God's sake, give him what he wants. But just get rid of him."

It was a sad, undignified end to the six-year association Steve Foster had enjoyed at Brighton. But Foster's transfer to Aston Villa, even though it recouped £200,000 in the fee, cost Brighton a small fortune in personal terms. The fact was, Foster still had six years left on a lucrative contract of ten years — and he didn't want to move!

"In the end, the club gave me all sorts of financial benefits just to leave. I took a massive £20,000 a year pay-cut to go to Villa."

But if Foster thought he had left the acrimony behind the day he walked out of Brighton, he was soon to become disillusioned. Within a few short months of signing at Villa Park, he was toying with the idea of quitting the game.

"I was that fed up with things,"

**Luton saved
my life**



Steve recalls. "Tony Barton had signed me but before very long, the club sacked him. Graham Turner arrived from Shrewsbury as the new boss and we never got on together."

Villa, says Foster, is a great club, full of tradition. But according to Foster, Turner treated the players like Third Division men.

"It reminded me of times at Brighton near the end. Chris Cattlin kept selling off the best players and saying it was good for the club. But those players are still in Division One while the club is in Division Two. So who was right?"

"It was the same at Villa. Turner



It cost Brighton a small fortune to get rid of Foster (left).



Steve didn't see eye to eye with manager Graham Turner (right) during his Villa days (below).

**T
R!**

The Steve Foster Story

started to sell anyone who was anyone. Peter Withe, Dennis Mortimer, Steve McMahon, Gordon Cowans and Paul Rideout — they've all gone."

The uneasy relationship between Turner and Foster never improved. Foster says: "I became the clown up there. The manager had me training until 4.30 in the afternoons, with the apprentices, as punishment. But we just never liked each other."

Foster spent 17 months at Villa Park. He claims: "The club said I was a rebel and I wouldn't train. But that wasn't the case. It was just that the manager they brought in wanted to get rid of all the leading players and build his own team."

No weirdo

Foster cost Villa £200,000 and they eventually sold him to Luton for £70,000. But because of injury, he played only 13 matches in the first team — costing the club £10,000 a game!

"The older players couldn't respect Turner because he wouldn't listen to anyone or earn their respect. Managers don't like characters, they are frightened of them. Or at least, managers like

Graham Turner and Chris Cattlin are."

But Foster did find a manager who could bring out the best in him. Canny Luton boss David Pleat moved in smartly to snap up the defender at a cut price fee. And Foster thanks Pleat for reviving his career in the game.

"I've got a lot to thank that man for. He restored my faith, not only in people but in football. I honestly thought long and hard about packing up football during the last few months at Aston Villa. I was that depressed with it all.

"But I came to Luton and started to enjoy my football again. It's totally different here; a manager whom you can respect. He's firm but fair, a terrific guy to work for."

"I have a reputation. People think I'm some kind of a weirdo, a nutter. But what I do away from football is up to me, within reason.

"I do my job on the pitch and this season have played the best football of my career. Part of that is down to David Pleat. He treats me as a responsible person and I react to that."

With his white head band on his forehead (to protect scar tissue) Foster is a natural target for the fans. And the abuse he receives sadly disillusioned him about the game.

"Football is a great game but it has become aggressive from the



Target for abuse

supporters side. I could go anywhere to play, Stoke, Norwich, Birmingham, anywhere and I guarantee you'll get people, even old age pensioners, swearing and spitting at you when you run out.

"That never used to happen; people applauded away teams and players if they did something good. But no more.

"I have been playing the game for 11 years but in the last five or six years, this aspect has come into the game. It's society, not just football. But it's awful to play a friendly match at a ground like

Exeter and hear 900 people swearing at you."

In 1985, Luton very nearly shocked the football world by toppling Everton in an F. A. Cup Semi-Final. It didn't quite happen; Everton survived to beat Pleat's team in extra-time. Luton, like Brighton had been, were struggling at the time to stave off the threat of relegation.

"But what happened illustrates the difference in the two clubs," says Foster. "At Brighton, we won only three of our last 24 games the season we went to Wembley. At Luton, after losing in the Semi-Final, we won seven and drew one of our last 11 games to ensure safety. It was an attitude of getting stuck in and doing a professional job. And we wanted to; you want to succeed for a guy like Pleat."

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CURRAN BLASTS



Terry Curran shows his still explosive pace against Bradford City.

For many managers, signing a player who has spent his career club-hopping might be considered a risk.

But in the case of Terry Curran, the flying winger whose travels have taken him from Fourth Division Doncaster to a role in the Everton revival, Huddersfield Town manager Mick Buxton had no such reservations when he signed him from the Goodison Park club in the summer.

"I know this is Terry's ninth club, but he's one of those football-daft players who will go anywhere just to play League football," says Buxton.

"He comes from this part of the country and was very enthusiastic about returning once he realised his chances of a regular first team spot at Everton were limited."

Curran, whose 12-year career has also taken him to Nottingham Forest, Bury (on loan), Derby County, Southampton and both Sheffield clubs, says: "I couldn't have been to any better clubs than Everton and Wednesday, but my pride is to play for the first team, whether it's for Halifax or Everton.

McMENEMY

"I'm 30 now, and I must admit I'd have liked to have stayed at one club throughout my career if I could have been guaranteed first team football.

"But you can get stale if you spend too long in one place, and I know I've enjoyed every club I've played for."

Curran nominates Sheffield Wednesday's Third Division promotion season of 1979-80 as his fondest memory, not least because he managed to notch 24 goals, a rare achievement for a player more used to creating for others.

"I played the best football of my career for three seasons at Hillsborough and that was a relief after my spell at Southampton.

"Working with Lawrie McMenemy was a bit of a trial. He's done remarkably well considering he's never played

League football, but he's a PR man, not a manager," adds Curran with a wry smile.

"I remember a time Forest came to The Dell. Lawrie walked out to the usual cheers, but they were drowned when Brian Clough followed him out about a minute later.

'Rollicking'

"You should have seen Lawrie at half-time. Instead of discussing tactics, the first thing he did was give a right rollicking to the steward who failed to warn him that Clough would be following him out so quickly!" Curran recalls.

Not surprisingly, he rates Clough as the greatest manager he's ever played under.

"Jack Charlton was a great coach, and Howard Kendall shared my attitude about the need

to entertain, but Cloughie was the best.

"Unlike McMenemy, he treated every player at the club with equal respect."

Curran's decision to go back to his native Yorkshire followed a frustrating run of injuries at Everton which meant he missed out on most of last season's glory. He had received a couple of offers from London clubs but didn't want to move to the capital.

Neither did he feel ready to go into management while he still retained a love for playing, so he approached Huddersfield.

"Having signed six players in the close season, Huddersfield are clearly an ambitious club," explains Curran.

"Obviously, we can't afford to buy our way up in the way that clubs like Leeds, Portsmouth and Sheffield United have tried, but we won't let the public down and that's what really counts," he insists.

SO UP!

Can Tony and 'Supermac' hit target?

Tony Cottee had never even heard of Frank McAvennie when John Lyall paid St. Mirren £340,000 for the Scot in July.

But now the pair form the most lethal partnership in the League and they're on target for a 50-goal haul this season.

Yet amazingly Lyall signed McAvennie, a leading contender for the Players' Player of the Year award, to play behind Cottee and Paul Goddard.

McAvennie played there pre-season and in the opening game at Birmingham. Goddard was injured at St. Andrew's — and the Cottee-McAvennie double act was born.

Cottee says: "The first I knew about Frank was when I read in the paper that he'd signed for us.

"I wondered what he'd be like after the manager paid that amount.

"But it was obvious, even in pre-season training, that Frank was a very good player.

"There isn't really a secret to our partnership. Goalscoring is pure instinct ... you react on the spur of the moment.

'Terrific'

"Frank's a very busy player who puts a lot of movement into his game, which creates a lot of space. We've also been getting some terrific service from the other lads.

"Frank and I can still improve our understanding. But we work on things in training — I just wish I could pick up his Scottish accent!"

While McAvennie has been in the limelight, Cottee has been scoring regularly to help him towards his 30-goal target.

"It's suited me Frank getting most of the publicity. It's enabled me to develop my own game

The First Division's deadliest partnership celebrate yet another goal, assisted by Mark Ward.



Tony Cottee is aiming for 30 goals this season.

without too much pressure."

Cottee has scored 19 and 24 goals in his previous two seasons.

Yet he started this season off slowly and was even left out of one game in September.

"People forget that I played 60 matches last season and that's a heck of a lot for a 19-year-old.

"I had only five weeks break after the tour to Japan and that flew by.

"I began to feel sluggish and tired towards the end of games. I had a word with the manager and he decided to pull me out of the firing line for the match at Southampton.

"I came on with 20 minutes to

go and felt much sharper. I realised that I was in danger of losing my place.

"Someone else was playing in my spot and I didn't like it.

"I scored in the next seven matches ... the little rest obviously spurred me on."

Lyall says: "Tony has terrific goal instinct and a high ratio of success from the chances which have come his way.

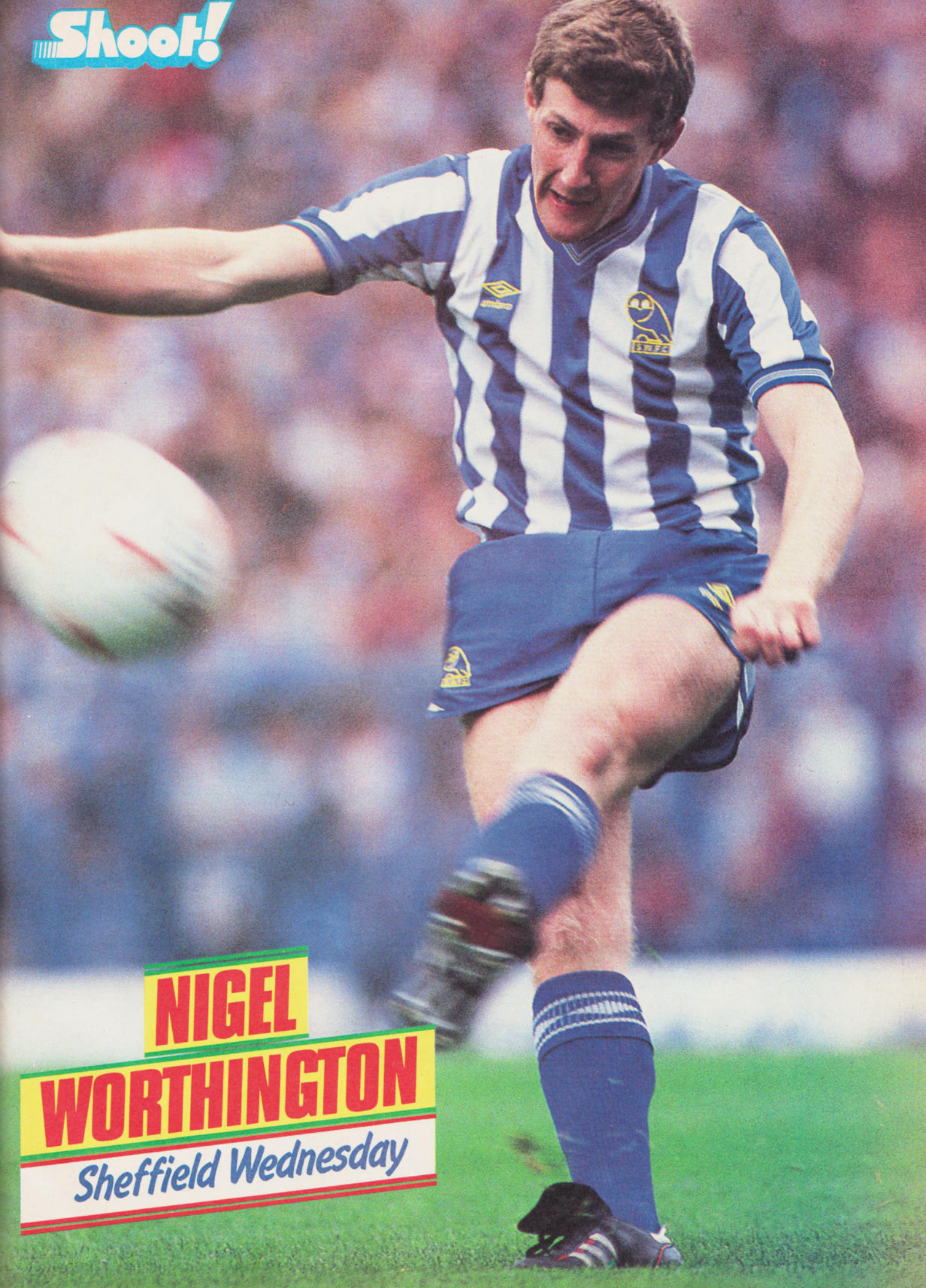
"He's also creating more and expanding his game, which is good. He's conscious of things other than goalscoring which is essential because in the modern game a player must be committed to the team."



BOOF-BOOF



Shoot!



NIGEL

WORTHINGTON

Sheffield Wednesday

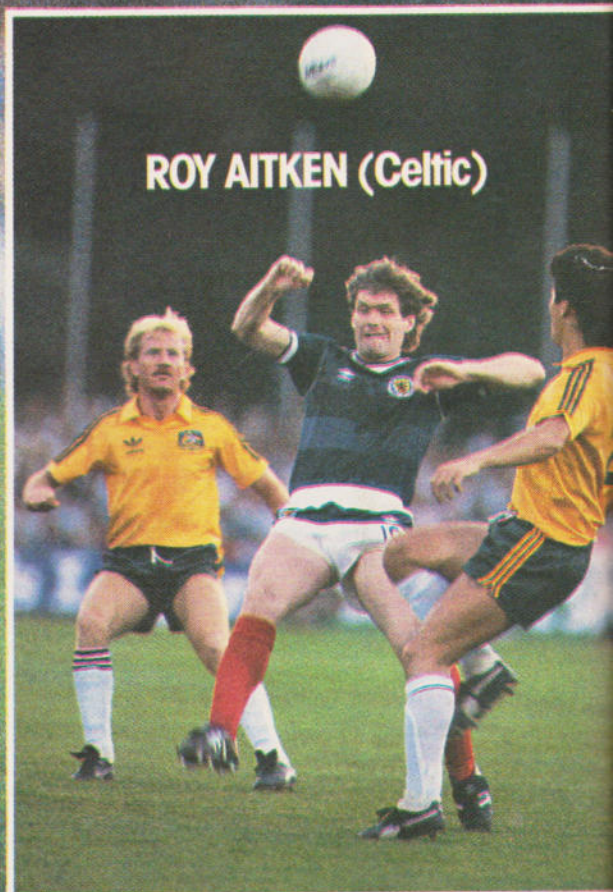
Tribute to

Scotland's World Cup

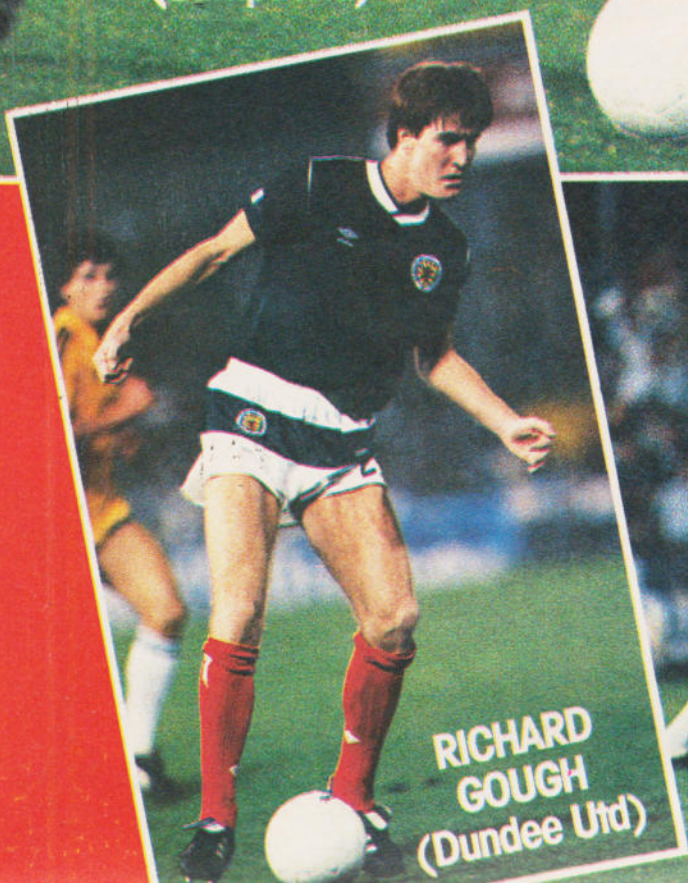
MEN FOR MEXICO



GRAEME SOUNESS
(Sampdoria)



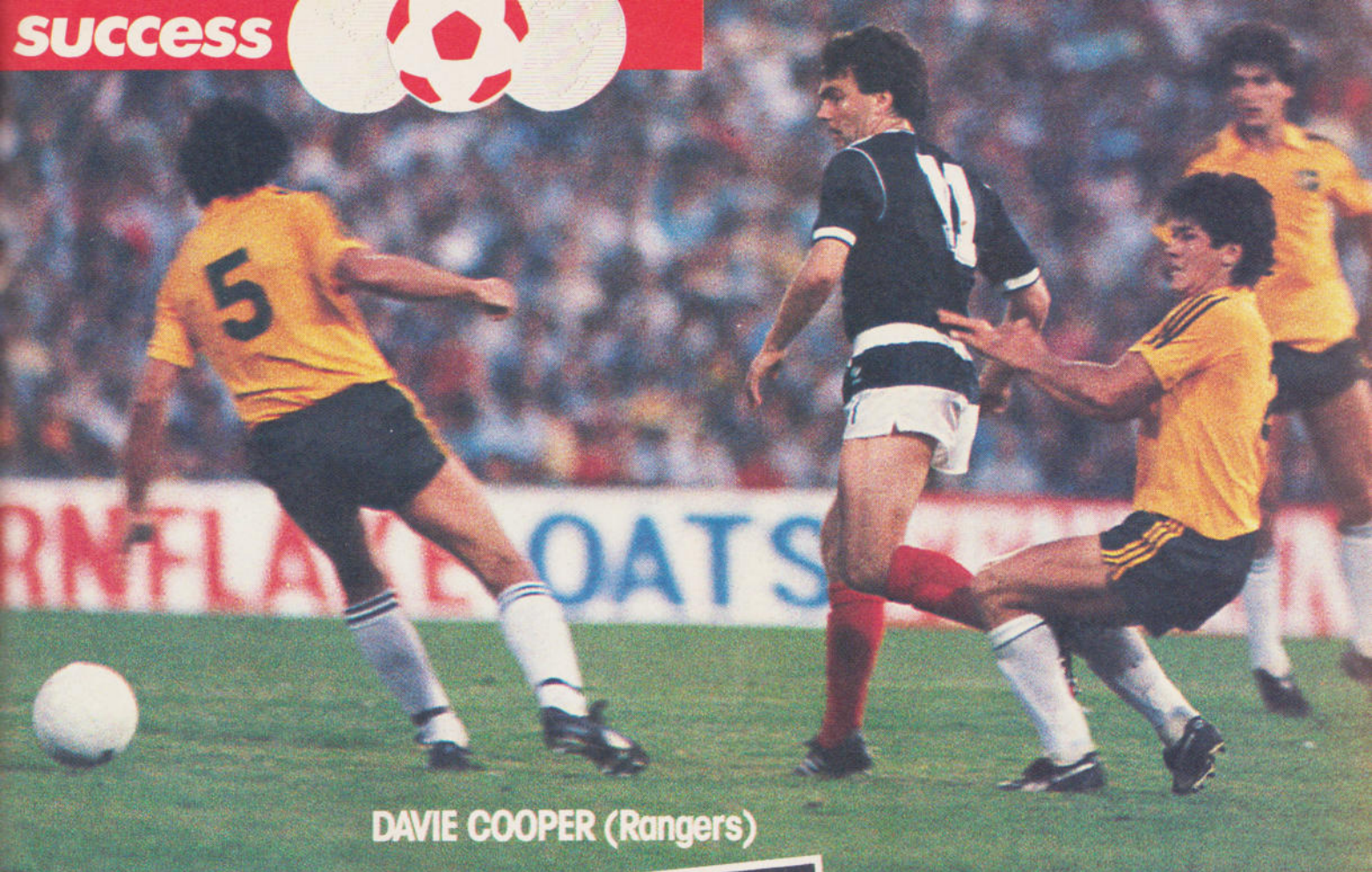
ROY AITKEN (Celtic)



**RICHARD
GOUGH**
(Dundee Utd)



**FRANK
McAVENNIE**
(West Ham)



DAVIE COOPER (Rangers)



**PAUL McSTAY
(Celtic)**



**MAURICE
MALPAS
(Dundee Utd)**

**Graeme Souness talking
— overleaf**

**After World Cup action in
West Germany 1974, Argentina 1978,
Spain 1982, what hope for Scotland
in Mexico 1986?**

'OUR BEST CHANCE YET'

Scotland may have limped rather than stormed into the World Cup Finals, but there is no inferiority complex about Alex Ferguson's squad.

How could there be with a fine skipper such as Graeme Souness leading the Tartan Army by inspiration and dedication during what is certain to be an eventful summer in Mexico?

Souness says: "This squad is better prepared for the Finals than any of the previous teams I've played in."

Main aim

"We may not have set the heather alight in our play-off games against Australia. But the main aim was to get to Mexico and we achieved that ambition."

"However, I am confident that you will see the real Scotland in the World Cup Finals."

We will play better against quality opposition. Look at the way we played in our 3-1 triumph over Spain at Hampden last year.

"That was a special occasion. It helped raise our game and everything clicked against the runners-up in the previous year's European Championship."

"That wasn't a fluke performance from us. I know there are more displays like that to come and Mexico will provide the ideal platform."

says Souness



Paul McStay has already gained valuable experience of playing in the Mexican altitude while with Scotland's Youth team.

**'This squad is better prepared
for the Finals than any
of the previous ones
I've played in ...'**

"Remember, we got to our fourth successive Finals under our own steam. We didn't need the help of anyone else to qualify."

"When we travelled to Iceland we knew we couldn't afford to fail. The conditions were against good football and Iceland will always make life difficult for any opponents on their own pitch."

"But it is surely a measure of our concentration and ability that we got the winner through Jim Bett so near the end."

"And when we went to Cardiff to face Wales we knew we couldn't afford to lose. Again I think we

proved our battling qualities."

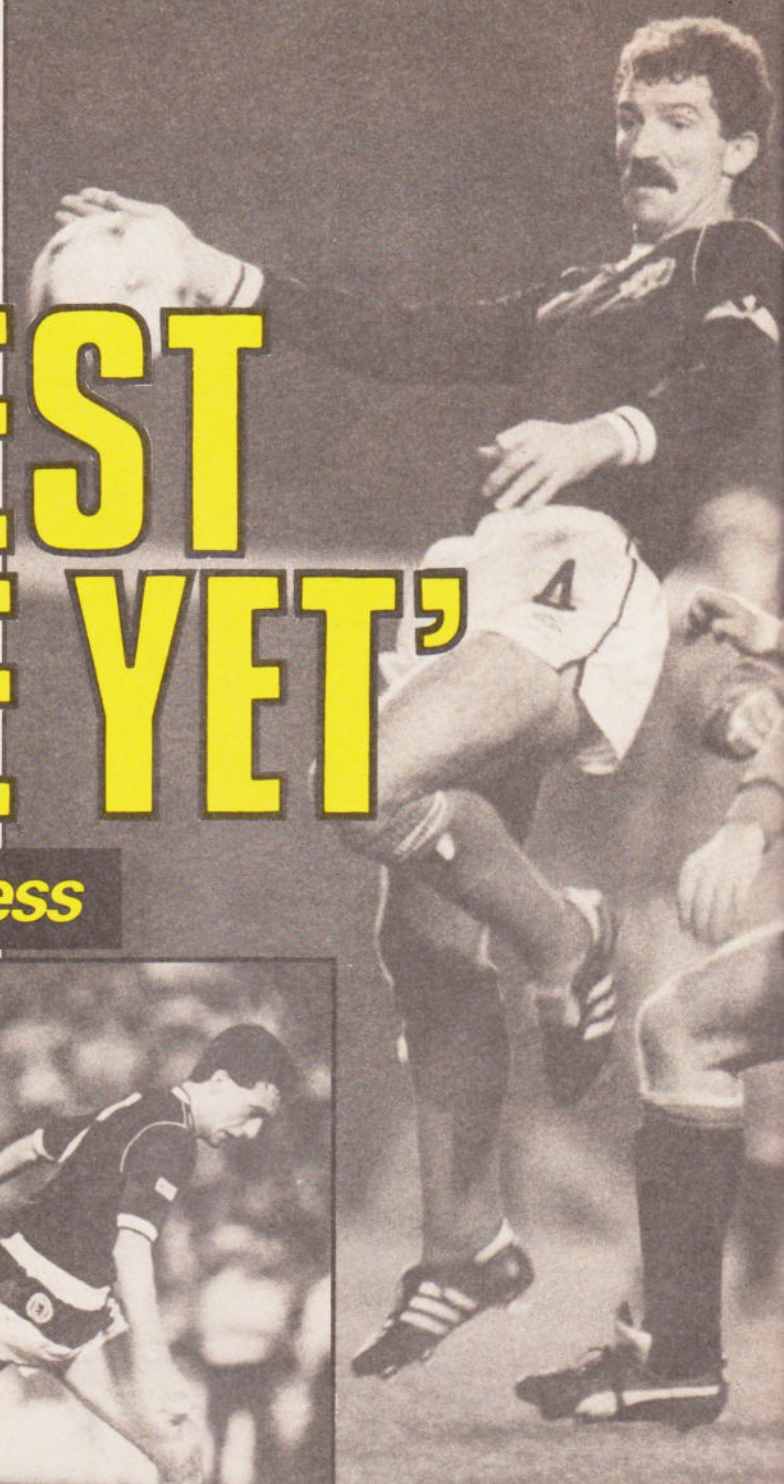
"I didn't play in that game because I was suspended, but I was there to cheer the lads on. They kept at it and refused to fold even when Wales scored first early on."

"The second-half of that match was virtually played in the Welsh half. That's what I call determination and I know that quality will come to the fore in Mexico."

"We got the equaliser — again late in the game — to ensure a play-off situation. And we did the business against Australia."

"Like I said earlier, the display maybe not have been that convincing, but the main thing was to get to the World Cup Finals and we managed that."

"The pattern of our game will change in Mexico, you can be sure of that. It would be suicide to play there in the manner we did against



Souness bursts through during Scotland's 3-1 qualifying win against Spain.



Charlie Nicholas

the Aussies in Melbourne or the Welsh in Cardiff.

"In fact, I would go as far as to say it would be impossible because of the altitude.

"We have had to work hard to get this far and at times we have had to compromise the way we have played.

"But the manager knows that to have any chance to do well over there we will have to play studied football and not get involved in kick and rush stuff.

"Obviously that is the style we will have to adopt."

Souness leaves the selection of squad and teams to manager Alex Ferguson, but he can look through the current pool of players and reel off a list of Scots who could play a major role in the forthcoming World Cup Finals.

"Paul McStay has already sampled the rarified atmosphere of Mexico as a Scottish Youth player

not that long ago and that will help him enormously," says Souness.

"Frank McAvennie is a good touch player to have around the penalty-area and I know Mr Ferguson would be more than delighted if Charlie Nicholas' goalscoring rate at Arsenal began to soar in the coming months.

"Charlie, on form, could be a revelation in Mexico.

"I firmly believe we have the players to adapt to an entirely new ball game in the summer.

"Forget our performances against Australia — the real thing is just around the corner."

How they got to Mexico

GROUP 7

Scotland 3, Iceland 0
Scotland 3, Spain 1
Spain 1, Scotland 0
Scotland 0, Wales 1
Iceland 0, Scotland 1
Wales 1, Scotland 1

(play-off)

Scotland 2, Australia 0
Australia 0, Scotland 0

(Scotland win 2-0 on aggregate)

Bonnie Scots

Scotland have been Britain's most successful World Cup country in the past decade, far outstripping England's performances.

Scotland's 0-0 draw in Australia this month clinched their fourth successive passage to a World Cup since 1974.

They sailed through the 1974 Finals in West Germany without losing a match but Yugoslavia and Brazil went through to the later stages with a better goal record.

Scotland were Britain's only representatives in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina.

They were known as "Ally's Army", a tribute to the euphoric managementship of Ally MacLeod.

Formidable

Graeme Souness, the current Scotland captain, made his first appearance in a World Cup as part of a formidable midfield squad consisting of Bruce Rioch, Don Masson, Asa Hartford, Archie Gemmill and Lou Macari.

Defeat by Peru and a 1-1 draw with Iran wrecked their World Cup dreams and worse was to follow when Willie Johnston, their best player against Peru, was singled out for a dope test, which proved positive.

The 31-year-old outside-left was sent home in disgrace and banned from international football.

In spite of a 3-2 defeat of Holland, Scotland were out of the tournament, with Peru and

Holland, the beaten Finalists that year, progressing to the later stages.

Scotland failed to reach the second stage of the 1982 Finals in Spain. The draw pitched them into a duel with Brazil and Russia after they had soundly beaten New Zealand, 5-2.

Brazil completely overwhelmed Scotland 4-1, the only consolation for the Scots being a thunderous goal by David Nearey, but they went out of the competition on goal difference for the third consecutive World Cup after drawing 2-2 with Russia.

Superb goal

Joe Jordan distinguished himself by scoring a superb goal against Russia to maintain his record for scoring in three consecutive World Cups.

The only survivors from the team which started that 1982 campaign are Souness and Manchester United's Gordon Strachan, then with Aberdeen.

Scotland were the 24th and final nation to win a place in the 1986 World Cup but nothing can detract from the level of consistency they have exhibited to upstage their British rivals in the past 12 years.

Scotland were beaten 4-1 by Brazil in Spain, in spite of this brilliant goal by defender David Nearey.



Chelsea striker Kerry Dixon may be worth his weight in gold, but there's already a hidden fortune buried at Stamford Bridge.

CAPITAL

Behind the scenes at Football League clubs lie secrets that even the players don't know. Shoot uncovers some of the curious stories from our top London clubs which are stranger than fiction...

COVER-UP

Don't tell Chelsea chairman Ken Bates, or he might get them drilling for treasure at the famous West London club.

Because sharpshooter Kerry "Gold" Dixon is not the only golden property at Stamford Bridge — there is a small fortune of the stuff buried there.

Before the West Stand was opened in 1965 that side of Chelsea's ground used to be wide-open terracing. And when the stadium was built in 1905, the vast base was composed mainly of clay excavated during construction of the London tube.

But there other ingredients. The original owners of the Chelsea ground, the Mears family, were in the haulage and demolition business. At that time, the nearby home of Lord Phillimore was being pulled down, and they were dumping the rubble at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea's gold

At one stage in the work, a workman drove a pick into a plaster wall at the old mansion, releasing a cascade of hidden coins, but no great importance was attached to them as the loading and tipping continued.

Soon hundreds of coins were buried in the rapidly growing mound beside the Chelsea pitch, and their considerable worth, as rare spade guineas, was discovered too late for them to be salvaged.

There the coins remained, buried beyond recovery... at first under 30 feet of clay and now under a mammoth concrete stand which seats more than 6,000!

Lord of West Ham

ANYONE with £35,000 to spare can become an East End toff.

The title Lord of East Ham, West Ham and Plaistow is on offer from the British Manorial Society and enquiries have already come from America, Europe and even Cockneys.

Whoever buys the title can have his own coat of arms... and the right to any mineral found under West Ham United's pitch at Upton Park.



SECRETS

Arsenal's horse

The massed ranks of Arsenal fans on the North Bank at Highbury will probably be surprised to find out what they have been standing on all these years — buried in the foundations is the body of a horse!

Former Gunners' keeper Jack Kelsey, who now works in the club shop, has been at Highbury for 37 years and is well qualified to tell the tale of the unfortunate beast.

"When the stadium was built they used horses and carts to carry away the rubble and bring in new materials," says Jack.

"One day, one of the horses tripped, fell and was killed instantly. The labourers decided to leave the body where it was and simply covered it over, so it is still down there somewhere today."

Highbury was also the setting for a pre-War feature film called

"The Arsenal Stadium Mystery", but for many years it was rumoured that the club possessed a real life mystery — its own ghost!

During the 30s, when they won the League Championship five times in eight years, Arsenal were the most famous club in the world, and the man who made them great, manager Herbert Chapman, was universally revered.

Haunted

Chapman died in 1934, but for years afterwards it was reckoned by top people at the club that his ghost haunted the stadium.

The late Bob Wall, secretary and subsequently general manager, used to tell how, when he and other members of the staff worked late, they would sometimes hear footsteps in the corridors.

Said Bob: "The steps would tap

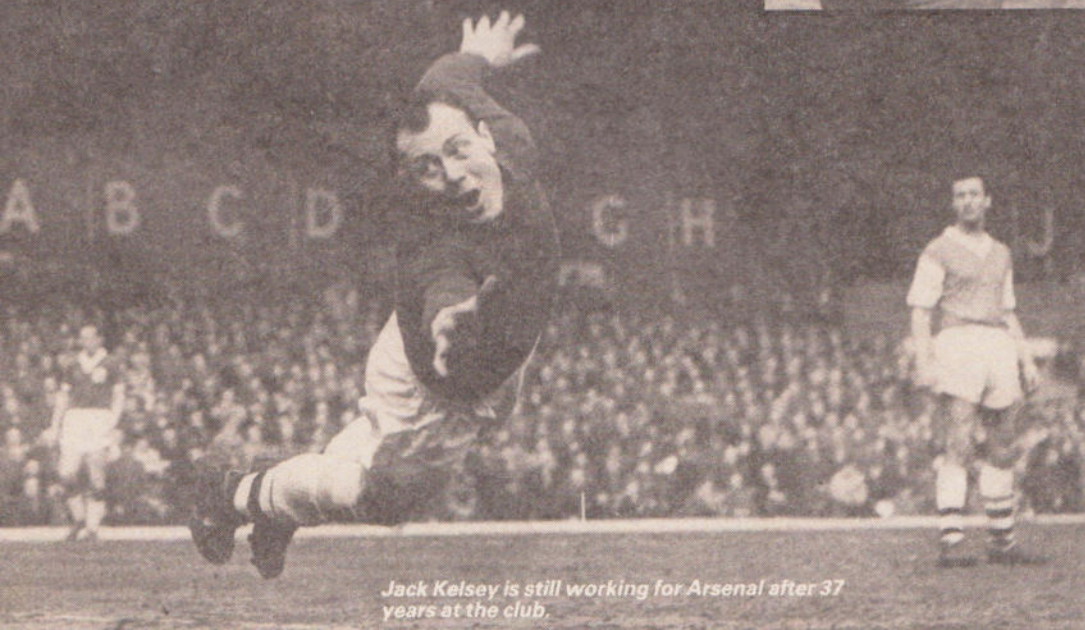
along the upper landing past my office and then through the corridor to the stand. They were the same measured steps as Herbert Chapman. I knew them well.

"Sometimes I would stop what I was doing, go to the door and look out.

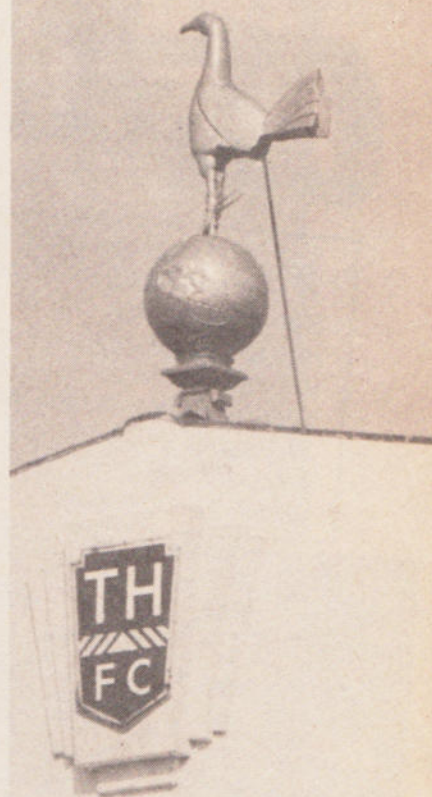
"But I never saw anything. No mistake, though. That was Herbert's walk all right."



Herbert Chapman



Jack Kelsey is still working for Arsenal after 37 years at the club.



Spurs' souvenirs

North London neighbours Spurs have more concrete reminders of the past secreted at White Hart Lane — in their famous cockerel emblem which is perched on top of the stand!

When the club were accepted into Division One for the first time in 1908/09, the copper ball beneath the feet of the feathery mascot was filled with souvenirs of the day.

Even when the cockerel was shifted to allow Tottenham's new West Stand to be built, the 'time capsule' was still not opened, so the documents detailing the club's acceptance to Division One, as well as some assorted coins and newspapers of that era, remain untouched.

NOBBY

WHAT SILLY PRESENTS TO GIVE A FOOTBALLER



A CORKSCREW AND AN ASHTRAY AND I DON'T DRINK OR SMOKE!



WELL DON'T COME COMPLAINING TO ME, YOUNG MAN ...



SOMEBODY GAVE ME AFTERSHAVE!



CLARKE CRACKER

WITH only one goal in his previous hundred games, Newcastle's Jeff Clarke went into the game against Leicester with a point to prove. And when skipper Glenn Roeder failed to connect, the 31-year-old stopper took full advantage to crack a superb left footer past 'keeper Ian Andrews. No wonder he's smiling!



Fourth Division Surprise Guys

Ian Greaves turned his back on an instant return to the First Division when West Bromwich Albion invited him to succeed Johnny Giles.

Greaves, now managing his sixth League club, chose to stay with Mansfield Town, where he continues to make the Midlands one of Division Four's 'surprise guys'.

A Second Division club in 1978, Mansfield have crashed through the League floor and been pinned in the basement since 1980. But under former Manchester United defender Greaves they are enjoying a promotion push.

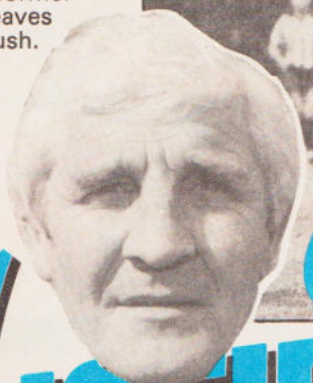
"I've been successful gaining promotion for Huddersfield, and Bolton and I believe I can achieve the same here," he says.

"Yes, I spent a lot of my life in the First Division and I loved



Swindon's Milk Cup defeat of Sheffield Wednesday proves they are capable of capturing promotion.

For Ian Greaves BEATS MANSFIELD WEST BROM



it. But I like the people at Mansfield and I am working for an ambitious club."

Elsewhere there are equally surprising surges for promotion.

Orient, relegated last season and in desperate financial straits, have bounced back under Frank Clarke and are sustaining a winning streak into the New Year.

Meanwhile, down at Southend, Bobby Moore is leading a great revival.

This time last year they were struggling to avoid re-election and there was talk of closure.

But it's all systems go for promotion now and the fans are seeing Moore's hard work rewarded.

"We have something of a West Ham society down here," says Moore. "My coaching staff comprises Kevin Lock, Frank Lampard and Harry Cripps and our football reflects that."

"I never doubted my ability as a manager and now that we have overcome our outside problems we're

getting it right on the field.

"I worked for Alf Ramsey, Ron Greenwood and Alec Stock. Something has to rub off, hasn't it? This area is crying out for promotion and we can sustain our momentum."

Chester manager Harry McNally was shattered when he learned that he must complete this season without the considerable help of scoring sensation Stuart Rimmer.

The striker, tipped to follow in the footsteps of Ian Rush, has a knee injury that has ended his interest in 1985-86. But little Chester, who finished in the bottom half of the table last season, are going great guns to regain the Third Division status they lost in 1982.

ON THE MOVE

The latest major transfers

Paul Elliott	Luton to Aston Villa	£400,000
Colin Gibson	Aston Villa to Man. Utd	£250,000
Billy Whitehurst	Hull to Newcastle	£240,000
Johnny Sivebeck	Vejle to Man. Utd	£200,000
Mark McGhee	SV Hamburg to Celtic	£150,000
George Reilly	Newcastle to WBA	£150,000
John Gregory (left)	QPR to Derby	£100,000
Gerry Forrest	Rotherham to Southampton	£100,000
Clive Walker	Sunderland to QPR	£60,000
Neil Pointon	Scunthorpe to Everton	£50,000
Brian Caswell	Doncaster to Leeds	£30,000
Andy Rhodes	Barnsley to Doncaster	£20,000
Leigh Palin	Aston Villa to Nottm. Forest	£20,000
Peter Daniel	Sunderland to Lincoln	£20,000
Andy King	Wolves to Luton	£15,000

Attacking

And what about Hartlepool? So often fighting to avoid re-election, they are proudly attacking 1986 with a dream of Third Division football at the Victoria Ground for the first time since 1968.

Lou Macari, sacked then re-instated by Swindon, has ridden out his personal storm down in Wiltshire and inspired them to an exciting Milk Cup run and a challenge for promotion.

"We showed our quality when we beat Sheffield Wednesday at our place and with lads like Peter Coyne worthy of a higher level of football, I am convinced 1986 will be a tremendous one for us."

A Happy New Year to the 'surprise guys'.



Ipswich midfielder star **ROMEO ZONDERVAN** has signed a new two-year contract with the club. "I still feel that Ipswich have a bright future and I want to be a part of it," says the Dutchman.

Gibson's World Cup goal

COLIN GIBSON believes his £250,000 transfer to Manchester United could help him break into the England squad in time for the World Cup Finals.

The Old Trafford new boy explains: "Aston Villa played me in midfield, but United have signed me as a left-back, which I believe to be my best position.

"Bobby Robson has already said he is looking for cover for **KENNY SANSOM** and this could be the chance to relaunch my international career."

United boss **RON ATKINSON** agrees. "Colin will be our left-back while **ARTHUR ALBISTON** is out injured. If he can keep Arthur out of the side when he has fully recovered then he certainly deserves to be in the England squad."

Robson wants United defeat!

England boss **BOBBY ROBSON** is keeping his fingers crossed for an Altrincham v Exeter F.A. Cup Final this season!

The international supremo admits: "I want to start acclimatising my players for Mexico as soon as possible.

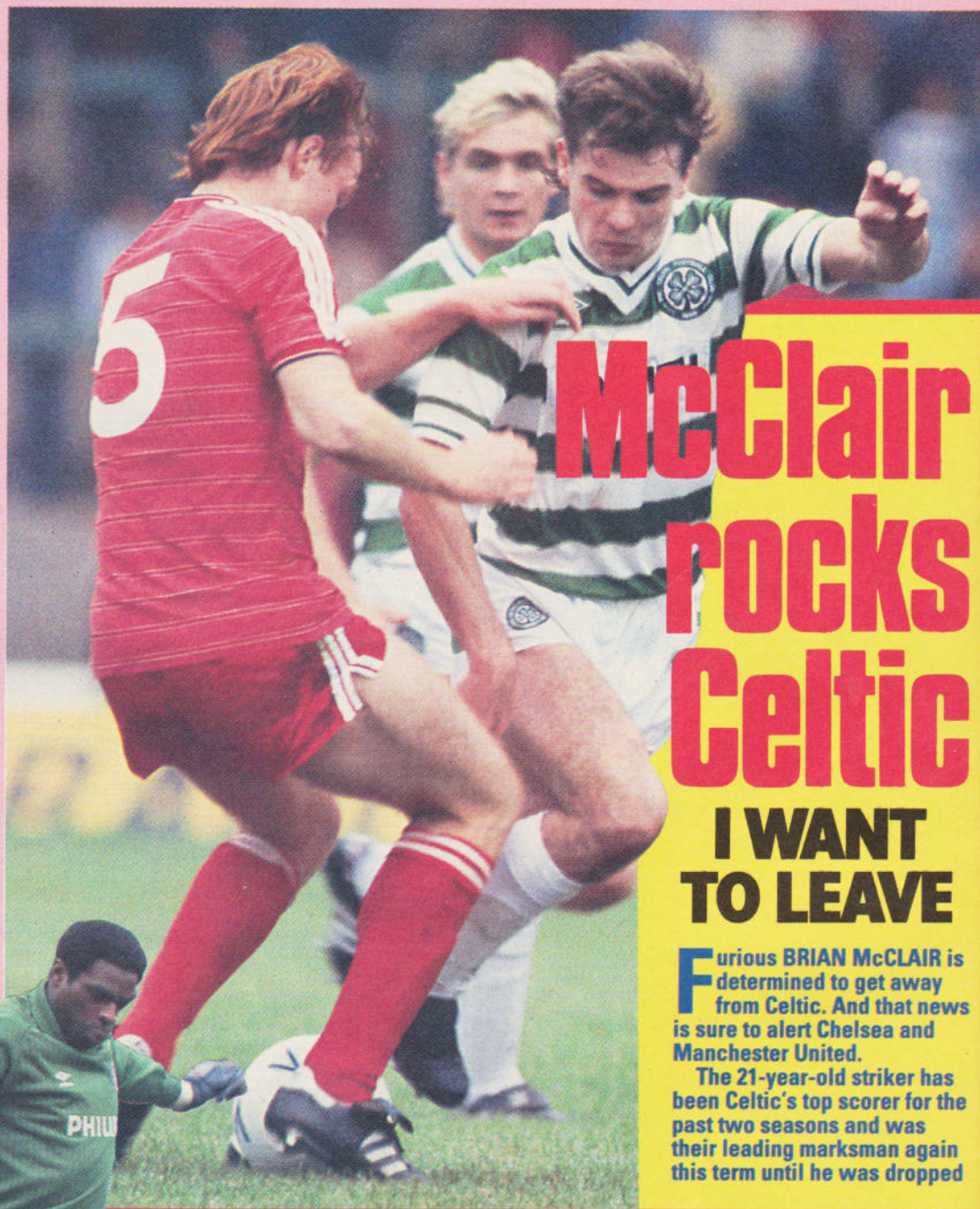
"That's why I don't want a repeat of last season's Everton v Manchester United F.A. Cup Final. The last thing I want is someone like **BRYAN ROBSON** involved in the Final just three weeks before the start of the World Cup."

Birmingham goalkeeper **DAVID SEAMAN** is getting sick and tired of all the criticism the team have been taking.

"A lot of nasty things are being said about us and it's getting on our nerves," says the England Under-21 international.

"People are trying to drag us down. Do you think we enjoy being told we're rubbish?"

What's new? IRWIN



McClair rocks Celtic

I WANT TO LEAVE

Furious **BRIAN McCLAIR** is determined to get away from Celtic. And that news is sure to alert Chelsea and Manchester United.

The 21-year-old striker has been Celtic's top scorer for the past two seasons and was their leading marksman again this term until he was dropped

Hammers double?

West Ham could be in line for a clean sweep at this season's PFA Player of the Year awards.

Voting forms go out in little over a month's time, and if The Hammers' impressive form lasts into the New Year **FRANK McAVENNIE** must be favourite to pick up the Players' Player of the Year award in his first season in English football.

And Frank's 20-year-old strike partner **TONY COTTEE** will also be among the favourites to pick up the Young Player of the Year award.

Cold comfort

Wherever you may be watching your football this Christmas, it's unlikely that you'll find it quite as cold as Queen of the South midfielder man **TONY GERVAISE** did recently. He was stretched off during their defeat at Dunfermline suffering from hypothermia!

Plans are underway for Liverpool to meet Celtic in a lucrative two-legged testimonial match for **KENNY DALGLISH** (right), who has scored more than a century of League goals for both clubs.

Manchester City goalkeeper **ALEX WILLIAMS** believes 1985-86 to be "the worst season of my career."

Williams (above) has been missing from the City team since mid-September after an operation for an ingrowing toenail.

He was then kicked in the teeth playing in an 'A' team game and now has a damaged nerve at the top of his thigh.

Mark Irwin knows AT LARGE

Walsall strikers STEVE ELLIOTT and WILLIE NAUGHTON were so impressed by vice-president PETER COOK's new watch that he promised it to either man if they could score a hat-trick in the club's next match.

Elliott duly grabbed three goals against Cardiff to claim his prize. But spare a thought for Naughton, who bagged his hat-trick in the very next game against Preston!

to make way for new boy MARK MCGHEE.

"I've scored more than 60 goals since Celtic signed me from Motherwell and think I've done enough to justify my place in the team," storms McClair.

"I'm always the first to get the chop when things aren't going well and can only assume the manager doesn't rate me. When I put in my transfer request, he just shrugged his shoulders.

"Not so long ago I was being talked of as a fringe player for Scotland's World Cup squad. But I'm not going to win too many caps while I'm in the reserves.

"That's why I've got to get away from Celtic, and I'd like a move to England if possible."

But Celtic boss DAVID HAY is in no hurry to part with McClair. "I'll decide if and when any players leave this club," he says. "Brian's challenge is to buckle down and win his place back."



Expensive cap

It cost SEAMUS McDONAGH more than £900 to win his 25th and final cap for the Republic of Ireland against Denmark last month.

McDonagh flew to Dublin from North America, where he is playing for Wichita Wings, at a cost of £1,200. But the FAI have refused to pay the eccentric goalkeeper more than £300 towards his expenses.

Luton are set to sign Stockport centre-half BILL WILLIAMS, 25, as defensive cover following the recent sale of PAUL ELLIOTT.



Pompey chase Ferguson

Portsmouth boss ALAN BALL is looking for a striker to keep his club's promotion drive going. And the man he fancies is Rangers' transfer-listed IAIN FERGUSON.

Rangers paid £200,000 to Dundee for Ferguson (right) last year but he fancies a move to England and says: "The game down there would bring out the best in me."

Norwich have also been linked with the Scotland Under-21 international, and French side Strasbourg has been watching the situation.

DAVID REGIS is hoping to follow in the footsteps of his older and more famous brother Cyrille.

The 21-year-old striker has just joined non-League Fisher Athletic after scoring a sackful of goals for Dunstable.

Don't forget that Cyrille also started his career in non-League football with Hayes before going on to win fame and fortune with WBA and Coventry.

Stephens in trouble

Coventry full-back KIRK STEPHENS is a worried man right now.

The 29-year-old defender expects to be out for the rest of the season following a recent cartilage operation and fears the club might not renew his contract when it expires in the summer.

Says Kirk: "I've prepared myself for the worst, but there's not much I can do now to persuade the club to offer me a new deal."



Nobby nobbled!

WBA boss NOBBY STILES was determined to remain incognito when he went to check on Southampton's JOE JORDAN.

He even decided to stand on the terraces in order to avoid recognition, but the first person he met was his former England team-mate BOBBY MOORE looking at possible signings for his Southend team!



TREV'S HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Trevor Brooking looks at some of the top matches due to be played over the festive period.



Saturday, 21st Dec.

Southampton v Nottm. Forest

DESPITE Forest's improvement over recent weeks, I doubt their strike force of Nigel Clough and Peter Davenport will get much out of a Saints defence which has tightened up in recent weeks.

Saints' problems are up front. Because of injury to big Joe Jordan they've been forced to play with just two strikers, Danny Wallace and Steve Moran.

Both are quick but lack the height to win the ball in the air. They need a big strong target man to play off.

I like the look of Saints' new signing Glenn Cockerill, the midfielder bought from Sheffield United.

Forest haven't scored more than a single goal in any of their last eight League visits to The Dell.

Their only win there during that period was 1-0 two seasons ago when Garry Birtles was the scorer. And he's now playing in the back-four!

MY TIP — Saints 1, Forest 0.

Dundee United v Aberdeen

THIS should be one of the best games of the season.

At the time of writing, Dundee United are unbeaten in the League at home, thanks largely to a defence boasting Scotland's Richard Gough and Maurice Malpas.



Chelsea's exciting young team tend to live a little too dangerously at times.

Chelsea trouble

Thursday, 26th Dec.

Chelsea v QPR

I ENJOY watching Chelsea. They're a young, exciting side, who look great going forward.

But they do tend to live a little too dangerously at times. Darren Wood, Robert Isaac and Dale Jasper are fine prospects, but they are liable to crack under pressure because they lack experience.

But Chelsea have the punch to beat the best and Rangers will need to be at their sharpest.

Losing Gary Waddock for the season was a big blow, although converted striker Michael Robinson has settled down in his new role on the right side of midfield.

MY TIP — Chelsea 2, QPR 1.

Everton v Man. Utd.

THE Champions are still a formidable team, although they do look a bit suspect at the back.

Take Peter Reid out of midfield and you can understand why Everton have suffered from inconsistency.

Considering the number of injured Manchester United have also suffered their performances have been quite remarkable.

Last season United were thrashed 5-0 at Goodison and have lost twice to Everton this time in the Super Cup.

So United will obviously be going all out to make up some of the lost ground but will need to watch Kevin Sheedy, who seems to enjoy scoring goals against them.

MY TIP — Everton 2, United 1.

Tottenham v West Ham

SPURS have only beaten my old club once in their last eight League clashes home and away, so The Hammers feel they have the edge.

The return of Gary Mabbutt and Gary Stevens after long spells of injury has helped Spurs.

But with Frank McAvennie, Tony Cottee and Mark Ward all in form I can't see Hammers losing.

MY TIP — Spurs 2, West Ham 2.

My message to Shoot readers...

THESE are just a few of the really cracking games scheduled for the holiday.

Do yourself a favour — get out and support your local team this Christmas. I'm sure you won't regret it.

It's a shame soccer is off TV because the goals and excitement I've seen this season would certainly encourage the fans back to the game.

Enjoy yourselves...

Trevor Brooking

Saturday, 28th Dec.

Celtic v Rangers

THIS is still the King of the Derby games.

Rangers have drawn their last three games at Parkhead and Ally McCoist has scored in three of his last five League games against the Auld Enemy on this ground.

Celtic, however, have a powerhouse of a player in Scottish international Roy Aitken (left) who will make his team-mates fight every inch of the way.

I see Celtic as favourites to win this one.

MY TIP — Celtic 2, Rangers 0.



Vince Hilaire has finally laid the ghost of the talented teenager who once threatened to take the First Division by storm.

Portsmouth's 26-year-old winger was in grave danger of becoming another of soccer's brilliant young talents who never quite lived up to early expectations.

But he's been in such tremendous form for the Second Division leaders this season that people have finally forgotten his tantalising early appearances for

Crystal Palace almost ten years ago.

"I'm sick and tired of people reminding me of what a brilliant player I was at 17-years-old," snaps the South Londoner. "OK, I let things drift and have nobody to blame but myself. But if ever there was a case of the right player being at the right club at the right time, that is Vince Hilaire at Portsmouth.

"And Alan Ball has to be the right manager. As a player, he rekindled the spark in so many others. Now, as a manager, that is the job he is doing for me.

"My enthusiasm this season has shot up. Alan preaches positive football and entertainment. He gets angry if you don't

deliver it — even away from home.

"When we won at Huddersfield, for instance, he came into the dressing-room afterwards and had a go because we didn't play the quality of football that he demands.

"I realise that every manager is making public statements about the importance of this season and the need to give enjoyment to spectators. But, in your heart of hearts, you know that only a few really believe it.

'Others'

"Manchester United, Watford, Luton, West Ham, Sheffield Wednesday and a few others. And Portsmouth are very much among them!

"That is why it's the club for me. Alan Ball expects the ball players like Kevin Dillon, Kevin O'Callaghan and myself to fit into an overall team pattern — but never at the cost of losing our individuality.

"Any manager who expected me to conform to a tight defensive formula



Hilaire looks for an opening in the Norwich defence during Portsmouth's 2-0 home win this season.

POMPEY'S BLACK PEARL

wouldn't want me. And I wouldn't want him."

It was in Crystal Palace's marvellous squad of youngsters under Terry Venables — the so-called 'Team of the Eighties' — that the brilliant attacking flair of Hilaire burst on to the scene. He was the budding genius who could not miss out on fame and fortune . . . but that was nine years ago.

True there have been nine England Under-21 caps but the promise was never delivered in full. In his final years at Crystal Palace and then, briefly at Luton, Hilaire was a shadow of the mesmerising matchwinner he looked as a teenager.

"I am 26 now and Pompey have given me the platform I need.

"This season is critical. On a personal note, I'd like to play better in front of the Fratton Park fans. The trouble is that so many sides arrive with defence in mind — Sunderland strung five across the back.

"Away from home, we thrive because of the space we are given. So it could be that the best of Portsmouth will be seen away from home. That's a pity . . . but I think the supporters will be happy if it all ends with Division One for the first time in 27 years."

Stars reveal
their dreams for 1986

'Year Sports

URGES SHILTON



Peter Shilton, capped 75 times by England and Southampton's goalkeeper for more than three years, says: "I want to see the improvement in crowd behaviour multiply until hooligans are old fashioned and ignored by the vast majority.

"But I also want to see more sportsmanship generated by fans. We are spoiled at The Dell because our supporters will applaud visitors if they play good football. But away from home I sometimes cringe when I hear the language and verbal hatred directed at my team-mates because we might be playing well. "Let 1986 be the year of the sportsman — on and off the field of play."

It goes without saying that I want to be part of an England side that comes home from Mexico with the World Cup.

Gary Stevens (Spurs): "I hope fans understand that their view of the game is better than the players'! While injured I watched from the stand and I realised what a simple game it is ... and why fans lose patience with us. But massive gaps from row 25 in the stand look much smaller when you are on the pitch."



Kenny Sansom is looking for World Cup success with England.

Kenny Sansom (Arsenal):

"For the game as a whole, we must do well in the World Cup Finals — that will excite the whole country — and we must get back into European competition because that has been a frightening isolation. On the personal front — I am desperate for Arsenal to win a major trophy in 1986."

of the man'



Kenny Hibbitt (Coventry City): "More talk about players and games and less about money, mergers and business. I believe our game has problems, but it also has marvellous strengths — excitement, creativity, passion and young players longing to make their name. I'm excited for 1986."

Terry Butcher (Ipswich Town): "I want to help Ipswich stay in Division One which, in my opinion, is already a Super League, and regain my England place in time to collect a World Cup winners medal!"



BEAT THE CLOCK

QUICKIES. 1. 1974. 2. West Brom. 3. Eddie Gray. 4. Everton — last season. 5. Littlewoods.

SHELTON BLAST. (A) Walsall and Aston Villa. (B) England. (C) It was United's first League defeat of the season.

WORD SEARCH. 1. Gidman. 2. Dens. 3. Miller. 4. Baker. 5. Stoke. 6. McAvennie. 7. Barron. 8. Owls. 9. Armstrong. 10. Rovers. 11. Nicholas. 12. Case. 13. Black. 14. Preece. 15. McNab. 16. Taylor. 17. Swansea. 18. Ormsby. 19. Wallace. **LIVERPOOL PLAYER:** Ronnie Whelan.

GOAL MACHINE. McAvennie from St. Mirren and Ward from Oldham.

SIGNED UP. Arsenal's Kenny Sansom.

WHO AM I? West Brom's Steve Hunt.

MYSTERY FATHER CHRISTMAS (from page 9). Everton's Gary Lineker (right).



Willie Miller (Aberdeen): "Contrary to popular belief, we are not obsessed by the European Cup. We are obsessed by the Premier Division title and the domestic Cup scene. The New Year can bring great honours for Aberdeen, and we all want to do our people proud out in Mexico."

Ally Robertson (WBA): "When Ron Atkinson took Bryan Robson, Remi Moses and himself off to Old Trafford in 1981 it ripped the heart out of what looked like being the best Albion team for years. We survived. We will survive again. That's my dream for 1986."



LAUGH LINE



"He gave away so many goals last Christmas ..."

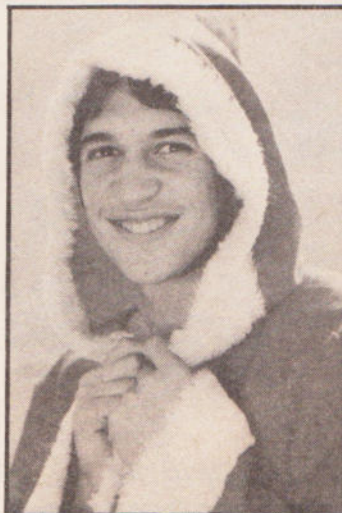
X WORD ANSWERS

ACROSS:

(1) Talbot. (7) O'Leary. (10) Roberts. (12) Remi. (13) Ban. (14) Ends. (16) Sown. (17) Carr. (18) Cart. (19) Ayr. (21) Tony. (23) Lukic. (25) Brown. (29) Tot. (31) Hose. (33) Pat. (34) Waddle. (36) Fulham. (37) Den. (38) Ride. (41) Les. (42) Brian (Clough). (44) Withe. (49) Urge. (50) Her. (52) Gale. (53) News. (54) Opal. (55) Horn. (57) Ash (Bristol City). (59) Alan. (61) Cottage. (62) French. (63) Dodges.

DOWN:

(2) Ace. (3) Bristol. (4) Trewick. (5) Ebb. (6) Urn. (7) Osvaldo. (8) Everton. (9) Red. (11) Easy. (12) Rich. (15) Says. (19) Arch. (20) Robs. (22) Power. (24) Under. (26) Ref. (27) Walsh. (28) James. (30) Tan. (32) Old. (33) Pal. (35) Era (2nd letters). (39) Inch. (40) Ewer. (42) Brennan. (43) Ipswich. (45) Tripped. (46) England. (47) Rush. (48) Dean. (51) East. (56) Orr. (57) Ate. (58) Hay. (60) Awe.



F.A. CUP CRACKER!

The stories ... the excitement ... the drama of all the big Third Round ties.

ARSENAL'S
DON HOWE
UNDER FIRE!

Tamed!
United
hard-man
HOGG

FANTASTIC
PULLOUT POSTER

World Cup Calendar

IN SPECTACULAR
COLOUR

Nottingham Forest
and Hibernian
team groups +
Steve Moran's
nightmare in
paradise +
Focus on
Aberdeen's
Billy Stark.

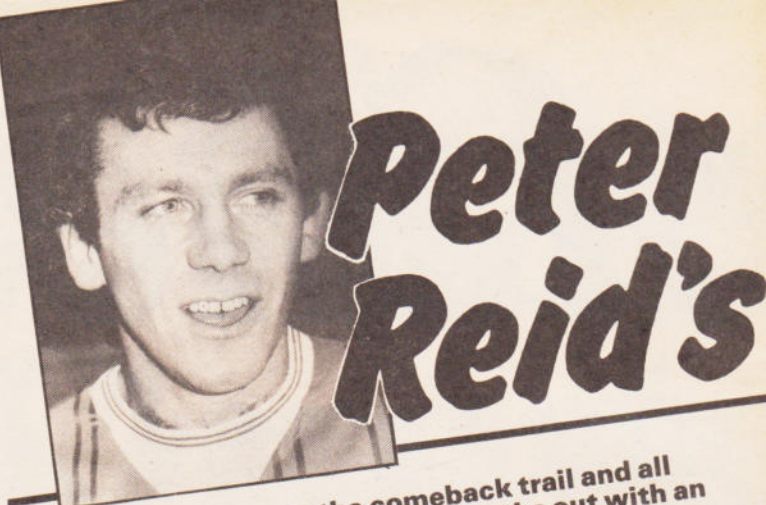
Ally McCoist
*Fighting for
his life*

*Jan Molby's
debt to
Kenny
Dalglish*

News of yet
another
tremendous
Free Gift
no fan will
dare miss.

All in the next Shoot —
issue dated 11th January — on sale Friday, 3rd January

Order your copy now!



Peter Reid's

Yes, folks, I'm on the comeback trail and all set for action after three months out with an Achilles tendon injury. And even if I don't make Everton's Boxing Day showdown with United at Goodison Park, I'm sure it's going to be a blue Christmas for Ron Atkinson and his boys. But rather than talk about the game of the holiday season, I thought I'd enter into the spirit of things and join in the festive fun. So here goes...

Rambo Sambo

IN eleven years as a professional footballer, I have never come up against a harder player than Sam Allardyce.

My former Bolton team-mate is built like Rambo and plays like him at times. Off the pitch, big Sam is one of the nicest guys you could hope to meet. But once he pulls on those size 14 boots it's a totally different story.

At Bolton, nobody held on to the ball for more than two seconds when Sam (below) was on the other side in training.

And when we came face to face at Coventry a couple of years ago, I was convinced I was in line for one of his 'special' tackles. Luckily, I just managed to get out of the way in time. Otherwise, I might not be here today!



Christmas is coming
And Reidy's almost fit
Look out Man United
You're going to be hit!

REVELATIONS

More over, Carl Lewis

NEVER challenge Kevin Ratcliffe to a race. My Everton skipper is the quickest thing on two legs this side of Carl Lewis.

But he's no marathon man — anything more than 50 yards and he blows out. And that's where his fellow defenders Gary Stevens and Pat Van den Hauwe take over.

They are a couple of tremendous athletes who could run all day. Along with England skipper Bryan Robson, they're the fittest players I've known.

Mind you, nobody works harder in training than Neville Southall. He's like a big kid — he loves diving around in mud or in his specially constructed sand pit.

Frank Worthington was another smashing trainer when we were together at Bolton. You couldn't keep him away. He was always back for extra shooting practice.

But Andy Gray on a Monday morning is the worst trainer in the business. It was always a toss-up between him and me who took the longest to recover from Saturday's game.



What a clown

EVERYONE knows what a character John Bailey is and it was a sad day for us all when he joined Newcastle a couple of months ago.

I remember one derby match when 'Bails' disappeared into the bathroom half an hour before kick-off and started shouting at the top of his voice that Liverpool were so scared of us they didn't know what they were doing.

When he walked back into the dressing-room wearing his shirt back to front, we just dissolved in fits of laughter.

But the biggest nutter I've known was Roy Greaves, a real practical joker who ran on to the pitch for Bolton's F.A. Cup tie at Huddersfield wearing a monkey mask!



By contrast, Tony Dunne was the quietest player I've known. He never said a word off the pitch, and even when he was directly behind me for Bolton he hardly made a sound.

Tony would have made a great room-mate, but Neil Whatmore was my perfect partner because he always got up early in the morning to make the tea. I have suggested to Adrian Heath and Paul Bracewell that they might like to take over Neil's duties, but they don't seem too keen on the idea.

Dream screamer

THE best goal I've scored was a left footer from 25 yards for Bolton at Luton which just flew into the top corner. I still have dreams about that one.

But the best goal I've ever seen was scored by Frank Worthington for Bolton against Ipswich.

Frank had his back to goal with two defenders marking him tightly. He lifted the ball up on the top of his boot, flicked it over his head and spun quickly enough to volley it straight into the top corner from the edge of the box. Magic.

I feared for Inchy

ADRIAN HEATH's knee ligament injury against Sheffield Wednesday 12 months ago was a terrible blow. I really feared for Inchy's career.

But the worst injury I've seen was in the 1974-75 season when Bolton went to Blackpool.

Alan Waldron turned quickly but his studs stuck in the ground. I can still recall the horrific spectacle of the bone coming through Alan's thigh.

We used to call Andy Gray 'Findus' at Everton because he spent so long having ice applied to all his bumps and bruises. But at least Andy's injuries were all genuine, which is more than I can say for Derby's Jeff Chandler.

There was always something wrong with Jeff — headache, ear ache, eye ache, strained finger or a ruptured toe. He was the only guy I knew with a season ticket for the treatment table!

Pin-up Worthy

PETER THOMPSON, the former Liverpool and England winger, was the smartest dressed player of all time.

He used to turn up for training at Bolton looking immaculate. But his taste in clothes was rather more conservative than Frank Worthington's.

Worthy used to really brighten up match days. While we'd all be wearing a suit or club blazer and slacks, Frank would turn up wearing a bright yellow jacket, leather trousers, cowboy boots and a bootlace tie!

The worst dressed player, however, was Mike Walsh, who followed me from Bolton to Everton for a while.

The big blond defender always wore smart clothes, but they just never looked right on him. They just didn't hang properly. Anything he wore looked as if it had been made for someone else, or maybe it had shrunk in the wash.

Poor old Walshie came in for more stick than anyone I've known. We used to slaughter him.



**Focus
on**

Steve McMahon

LIVERPOOL



Full name: Stephen McMahon.

Birthplace and date: I was born in Liverpool on August 20, 1961.

Height: 5ft 9ins.

Weight: 11stone 12lbs.

Married: Yes, to Julie. We have one son, Stephen Joseph.

Home: We're presently living with my mum and dad until we purchase a place of our own somewhere around Merseyside.

Car: Austin Rover Montego.

Previous clubs: I started at Everton and played exactly 100 League games for them before joining Aston Villa. Liverpool signed me in September.

Nickname: Macca.

Favourite other sports star: World Champion boxer Barry McGuigan and John McEnroe.

Most memorable match: My League debut for Everton at Sunderland in August, 1980, even though we lost 3-1.

Biggest disappointment: Sustaining a knee injury at the end of my first season in the Everton team. I'd played in 34 League games when I suffered the injury at West Bromwich Albion.

Superstitions: None.

Club honours: I don't have any at the moment.

International honours: Six England Under-21 caps and one appearance for the 'B' team.

Favourite other sports: Golf and snooker.

Hobbies: A game of golf.

Favourite actor and actress: Richard Pryor and Lesley Anne Down.

Favourite TV shows: Dallas, 'Allo 'Allo and all sports programmes.

Favourite musicians: Rod Stewart and Bruce Springsteen.

Biggest influence on career: My father and Everton coach Colin Harvey for their help and advice.

Ambitions for 1985-86: To win the Championship with Liverpool and to add to my international honours.

Long-term ambitions: To be successful in football and happy in life.

Steve McMahon



John McEnroe.